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PHOTO BY ADAM SHIVER

Large lizards have invaded downtown Orlando. This LizArt is benefiting the local arts and charities.

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Bergman Field dedicated

Record number turn out in rain for ceremony and inaugural game

DAVID MARSTERS
STAFF WRITER

UCF's Jay Bergman Field played host to its first-ever game Saturday, completing a project that began nearly a decade ago.

Named for UCF baseball coach Jay Bergman, who has held that position since 1983 and has 704 wins at the school, the on-campus baseball stadium provides a new home field and practice facility for the nationally-ranked Golden Knight baseball team. For each of the past two seasons, UCF has played its home baseball games at Tinker Field, which sits adjacent to the Florida Citrus Bowl in downtown Orlando. Bergman says that the impact of having an on-campus stadium will be immeasurable.

"There's not a price tag you can put on it," he said. "You have to realize that the last two years, every game our team has played has been a road game. We've gotten on a bus for everything for two solid years.

"Our players haven't griped, they haven't complained, they haven't tucked their heads and they've played well. I'm real proud of them. It's a lot of adversity. So we've been through the adversity and now we have the luxury of having our own field and enjoying it. And that's what we plan to do."

The idea of building an on-

campus stadium is not a new one, as the project has been in the works since before many of UCF's current students were even in college.

"They were talking about this project when I came here nine years ago," said UCF President John Hitt. "It took a long time to get the money together. A lot of people helped and here we are today. Having a first class facility like this is a great breakthrough for us, and being able to recognize Jay Bergman's



PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

Jay Bergman accepts a plaque at the dedication of the baseball field named in honor of him.

accomplishments over his many years here, it's just a great day."

Despite a steady rain, Saturday's festivities started with a dedication ceremony honoring Bergman. Hitt, along with UCF Athletics Director Steve Sloan and State Representative Lee Constantine, who

sponsored the bill in the Florida House of Representatives that named the field after Bergman, were among those who addressed a record UCF home crowd of 2,170 in tribute of the Golden Knight baseball coach. After being presented with a plaque commemorating the event, an emotional Bergman told the crowd that he loved the university, his fans and his players, and that he was "the proudest guy in the world."

"We're so happy to get the building completed," said Sloan. "We can't control the weather, but I think the stadium is really nice and we're just pleased with the way the ceremony went and to get it done. We've been working on this a long time."

Following the dedication ceremony, the UCF baseball team took the field against Florida International University, losing 6-2 to the Golden Panthers.

Lunch time



PHOTOS BY HALEY CABRERA

A teacher assists students in the Pre-Kindergarten classroom on campus, located in the early childhood center.

Pre-K class a learning tool

KRISTA ZILIZI
STAFF WRITER



PHOTOS BY HALEY CABRERA

Students in Pre-K enjoy time in their classroom. These children are members of one of the two Orange County School System classrooms on campus.

UCF's early childhood education observation facility appears to look like a typical UCF classroom with tables and chairs, blackboards and overhead projectors. A few children's storybooks lined along the blackboard ledges is the only evidence that the classroom is a childhood education facility.

When the blinds are opened, two very different classrooms are revealed.

In one classroom, children from the Orange County Pre-K play in a classroom designed to look like an ordinary pre-kindergarten classroom. The classroom is equipped with toys, storybooks, crayons and child-sized tables and chairs. The

walls are decorated with finger paint masterpieces and alphabet posters. In the other classroom, children from the United Cerebral Palsy program play in a similar Pre-K classroom.

Nestled between the two nurseries, is UCF's observation classroom, where UCF students observe the children's behaviors and interactions through a one-way mirror. The university is teaching early childhood education majors real examples of child growth and development using this observation facility.

Dr. John Manning, an early childhood education professor, uses the facility each semester to teach his classes.

CLASSROOM, Page A-3

Health Services receives accreditation

BECKI PANOFF
STAFF WRITER

Student Health Services became a member of the elite ranks of only about 100 other universities in the United States this past December by obtaining accreditation. UCF joins the University of Florida as the only other Florida school health center with accreditation.

"For medical centers of any kind... they can be accredited [meaning they apply to a nonprofit organization that checks whether the equipment is well maintained, if the center has written policies, etc.,]" said Robert Faust, director of Student Health Services. "If you meet their standards, they put their official seal of approval [on you.]"

UCF's Health Services

labored three years before officially receiving their accreditation from the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care, Inc (AAAHC). In order to obtain this honor, Health Services had someone from the AAAHC inspect the facility in early October of 2000, and it attained accreditation status on Dec. 5.

With this accreditation comes the recognition that the facility meets the standards for excellence in medical health care and health education.

"It lets us know we're doing things not just right, but better than other places," said Faust.

Usually, accreditation is given anywhere from six months to three years. Three years, which is what UCF's health center was

HEALTH, Page A-4

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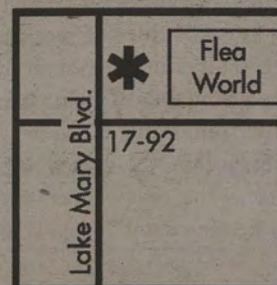
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news

Classroom helps build skills for education majors

FROM PAGE A-1

"Most universities have a child laboratory school that's available for observation," said Manning. "They use it to train teachers and use it as a laboratory for students."

"Usually the observation area is just an area, not a classroom. I've never seen a classroom sit between two actual rooms, where a class can be conducted," he said. "The only disadvantage is not being able to hear what's going on in the Pre-K classrooms."

This morning Manning conducts the first observation experiment with this particular class. Students are told to pick a child to observe for ten minutes and

record their behaviors and interactions. Throughout the semester, Manning will continue assigning observation tasks every two weeks.

"I'll gradually give my students more specific observation assignments," said Manning. "Because the class is called observing and development, we try to build in a lot of observing," he said.

Junior Melissa Lynch said this technique of observation gave her a bird's eye view of child growth and development.

"When you think about teaching, you think about being in the classroom with the kids. By observing them this way, it kind of gives you insight about learning their quirks and tenden-

cies," she said.

Manning urged his students to develop observations without opinions and speculation. He explained, the purpose of observing is to build skills to notice a child's behavior and help them solve a problem.

When junior Rachel Westman observed a little boy signing to his teacher in the cerebral palsy classroom, she assumed he was deaf.

"I found out that kids with slower speech use signing to communicate. It turns out that the teacher was signing and talking to him at the same time," Westman said.

The majority of students in Manning's early childhood education classes are female. In fact,

only three out of 120 of his students are men.

"96-98 percent of the early education profession is female. Society thinks that childhood care is a woman's job," he said. "The proportion goes up steadily from elementary to secondary education for male educators."

"It all plays out in economics. Early childhood education is not acceptable for men to come into because it is lower paying work. Teachers have always been in the occupation because they have a caring ethicacy. Money happens to be secondary. It's more acceptable for women to have a caring ethicacy while men are pushed into a position that's more economically valuable," said Manning.

Did you know?

BECKI PANOFF
STAFF WRITER

Useless fact of the week

At 40 degrees Centigrade a person loses about 14.4 calories per hour by breathing.

The average person will spend two weeks over their lifetime waiting for the traffic light to change.

February 9-15 is national kraut and frankfurter week.

Quote of the week

"Dreaming permits each and every one of us to be quietly and safely insane every night of our lives." - Charles William Dement

Web site of the week

<http://www.crushlink.com/>

Just in time to get a date for Valentine's Day, this web-site allows you to put in your secret crush's name and send them an e-mail telling them they have a crush. They have to guess who it is.

This week on campus

February is Black History Month.

Cancer fundraiser will honor victims, survivors of disease

LIBBY BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

The American Cancer Society will hold the fifth annual Relay for Life Friday, Mar. 23 at 6 p.m. on the UCF track. The relay is an 18 hour walkathon designed to raise money for the American Cancer society while increasing cancer awareness. While this is the fifth year the relay has been held in Central Florida, the last four years have been held here at UCF.

According to Karen Breakell of the Constituent Relations Office, 93 teams have already signed up, leaving room for 17 more.

Teams consist of 10 - 15 people, and at least one person from each team is required to be on the track at all times. Teams also work to raise money for the Cancer Society year round in such creative ways as hula jays, book sales, car washes and more.

The relay is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and continue until 12 p.m. on Saturday, but the walkathon is not the only event planned. Among the activities are a bad hair day contest, a pajama party, skits and a DJ. Last year, food was provided by Loco's, while this year Loco's has worked with Sodexo-Marriot to provide food for the event.

Each year has had a different theme. Past themes include movies and newspaper stories, and this year the Cancer Society has adopted a storybook theme. Tents around the track will be decorated accordingly. Also planned is a ceremony to honor those who have lost their lives to cancer or are currently fighting it. Part of this ceremony is luminaries, or candles, lit to honor those who have or are fighting cancer.

According to Rebecca Zamrycki, also of the Constituent Relations Office, students may sign up with Lucretia Gilbert in Millican Hall room 328 as space allows.



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news

Accounting students offer free tax services through VITA

MICHAEL ROBBINS
STAFF WRITER

Starting on Feb. 6 and lasting until April 15, Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting fraternity of the University of Central Florida, as well as other students from the School of Accounting, will provide free assistance to students for income taxes.

This aid is available every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. and again from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.; they will return on Fridays from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. They will be located at various locations within the Student Union; the location will be posted in the Student Union, as well as at the information desks of both the Student Union and the Business Administration Building.

"Lots of people are nervous about taxes," said Dr. John Salter, the faculty adviser for Beta Alpha Psi, "Our group is able to help. It provides a useful service to the campus."

Their efforts are a direct result of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) through a program called VITA, which stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The IRS provides this service throughout the nation to those that are unable to pay for a certified public accountant to assist them with their income tax forms.

Each year, VITA sends representatives to campuses and other varied locations. These representatives provide training to student accountants or those who wish to assist others. The trained student accountants then provide the free service to students.

"[Our fraternity] will literally do your taxes for you," said Beta Alpha Psi President Charles Murphy.

Beta Alpha Psi and various other students from the School of Accounting have been performing this service for years. There are a few changes this year, however, such as being located in the Student Union.

In addition to having the satisfaction of assisting students who may not understand the processes of income taxes, the accounting students and members of Beta Alpha Psi receive training and experience in the field of practicable accounting. This training will be vital to them when they enter the professional arena.

"It's a 'win-win' situation - Beta Alpha Psi gets the opportunity for experience, while the students receive guidance," said Murphy.

Students who wish to use this service are asked to bring some vital information and forms with them. In order to take advantage of the process, students will need: information regarding their income for the year (both their information and any dependents they may have), all forms needed (including W-2s, 1040s, and 1099s) and any deductions or credits that pertain and a copy of tax returns from last year. The service will provide any other necessary forms used by the IRS.

"All you really have to do is show up," said Murphy.

In addition to offering the chance to have your taxes done, VITA also answers any questions regarding income taxes. They will sit down with students and give them advice/answers to any questions; if a student wishes to have their taxes done for them, they may stay and learn (from the representative) how to do their taxes. If they don't wish to stay,

BOTH, Page A-5

Around Campus

The dating game

Victim Services presents their version of the Dating Game. The event is Friday, Feb. 9 from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Student Union Courtyard.

President's Leadership Council applicants wanted

Council members function as student ambassadors at special events and receive special training in leadership and public relations.

President's Leadership Council members for 2000-2001 are welcome to apply in the Office of Constituent Relations, Millican Hall, Suite 328. Applications are due no later than Thursday, Feb. 22, at 5:00 p.m.

A great date

The UCF Orchestra presents Valentine's Pops Concert, featuring John Whitney (conductor and piano) and Ayako Yonetani (violin), on Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the Student Union. Tickets are \$20. 823-2863.

Health Center expansion suggested

FROM PAGE A-1

awarded, is the most a facility can receive.

Also with this status comes requirements from the organization that inspects and awards the endorsement. For instance, to keep its accreditation, the center must always have quality improvement projects in effect. One such project was a call button in the pharmacy, so that if a student passed out in the pharmacy while waiting for a prescription, then someone from the medical staff could be alerted quickly to come to their aid.

The awarding of the accreditation was only one of Health Services' many long-term goals.

They would also like to maintain accreditation, be productive in maintaining facilities, expand their services, offer flu shots, have more partnering opportunities and make students more aware of their services.

Also, the AAAHC suggested that Health Services needs more space. They suggested that more space be added within the next three to five years.

"Most schools have facilities that are 35,000 - 50,000 square feet, where as we have only 15,000 square feet," said Faust. "We have about 200 patients a day and our facility is pretty small."

60,000 patients visited Health Services last year and 44,000 prescriptions were filled.

Focus

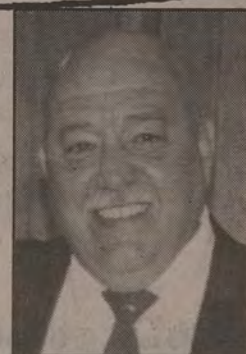


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news

Unusual things to do for Valentine's Day

AMY PAVUK
STAFF WRITER

dles.

Lake Eola's swan boats have become a hallmark of downtown Orlando, and the festive paddleboats cost \$7 per half-hour. Couples can rent the paddleboats until 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Another budget-friendly Valentine's activity could be a romantic horse-drawn buggy ride. For \$25, couples can ride down Church Street Station. Reservations are not necessary, look for the buggies at Church Street.

Students interested in a busy nightlife can shop, dine or visit larger venues such as Universal Citywalk or Downtown Disney West Side. Both locations feature specialty restaurants, bars and clubs.

Downtown Disney West Side has a movie theater complex, shops and restaurants such as the Wolfgang Puck Café and Planet Hollywood. Another popular activity at Downtown Disney is DisneyQuest, a virtual reality complex.

Universal Citywalk also has a movie theater complex, shops and restaurants. Visitors can dine at specialty restaurants like Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville or Emeril's in Orlando. For jazz enthusiasts, Cityjazz opens at 8:30 p.m. and offers live performances with a \$3.25 cover charge.

Junior Shannon Rae Green's boyfriend will be surprising her Valentine's Day. "I know we are going to a very nice restaurant, but it will be a surprise." She added, "Then, we are going to Disney Boardwalk."

These larger venues have many activities for all Valentine's dates, however, after parking and dining the evening could be very expensive.

Check out how students feel about Valentine's day in our Opinions section next week, as well as browse our Valentine's Classifieds.

Students wanting to avoid a dull date for Valentine's Day have many opportunities to surprise their sweetheart in Orlando. From picnics in the park to fine cuisines, there are activities for every budget.

Junior Joseph Edwards said his best Valentine's date was very inexpensive. "I took a girl to a pond that had paddleboats. From that night we started a relationship that didn't end for a year and a half."

A couple wanting to get away from crowds and save money may want to visit Crane's Roost Park, located behind the Altamonte Mall. A well-lit walkway complete with benches surrounds a glistening lake.

"The great thing about Crane's Roost is there are a lot of people there, but still room for privacy," said Casey McCorkle. "This would be a good place for a Valentine's date, because it's not too private, and you wouldn't feel awkward."

A day at Leu Gardens is inexpensive and tranquil. Orlando's scenic garden is almost 50 acres of gardens, ancient oak trees, historic buildings and a romantic view of Lake Rowena. For \$4 a person, the gardens are open to the public from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Park Avenue, located in downtown Winter Park, is a popular, but pricey venue for shoppers and diners. However, a picnic in the park can be affordable and romantic. For couples on a budget, cook an inexpensive meal at home and pack it to go. For a moderately expensive picnic, take-out food from your significant other's favorite restaurant. According to lovingyou.com, necessary items for a successful, romantic picnic are: a radio or CD player, pillows, roses, champagne and candles.

Both accounting students, student body will benefit from free tax service

FROM PAGE A-4

it's not necessary.

Representatives from Alpha Beta Psi hope to see an improvement that will make VITA sessions more efficient; according to Murphy, it is anticipated that the entire system will be run online, making the process more expeditious. A new program provided by the IRS, known as IRS e-file, will accomplish this.

The new process works by having the VITA session connected directly to the IRS's computers. Students using the service will be able to fill out their forms online; those students may also pay online using their credit cards or a direct link to their online bank. According to the

IRS, this new process will provide the benefits of being faster, more accurate, provide fewer errors, and will help to make any returns come to you as swiftly as possible. This service is also free to use.

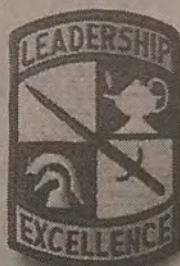
Many members of the student body view this as a real benefit. They feel that it helps to relieve the stress they feel from taxes. "Taxes are a real stress for me and confusing. With this service, I can get the help I need," said Evan Turner, a student at UCF.

Any students that have questions about VITA may contact Beta Alpha Psi in the Business Administration building in room 473.



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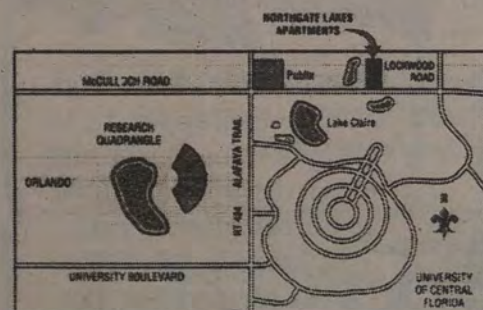
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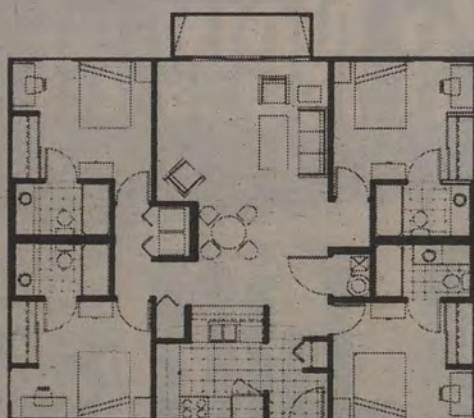
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news



ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Huge lizards, of various shapes, colors and sizes, have invaded downtown Orlando.

No it's not a scene out of a bad Japanese monster movie, but rather, LizArt, a project to benefit the local arts and charities of Orlando. LizArt began popping up downtown in October of 2000 through the efforts of Mayor Glenda Hood.

An auction will be held, following a showing of all of the

Leaping lizards

LizArt infests downtown Orlando

lizards, later this year. The larger portion of the monies collected by the auction will go to Orlando's local arts while the other portion will go to the charity of choice of the LizArt sponsors.

"They will be auctioned off in December of this year," said Maryann Cummings, an Arts and Marketing Intern at City Hall. "We haven't decided where they will be auctioned off yet."

Companies from across Orlando sponsor the yearlong event by purchasing lizards, either decorated or undecorated. An undecorated piece of LizArt goes for \$2,800 while one, already decorated by a local artisan sells for \$3,800.

There are currently 60 LizArt displays all around the downtown area, with more being put up in the

coming year.

Some of the companies that are already participating in the project are Universal Studios, the Courtyard Marriott downtown, Orlando International Airport, CityWalk, Bear University, City Beverages, Disney and more.

"Universal has contributed over \$100,000," Cummings said.

On top of raising money for the arts and charity, the project is intended to promote the downtown area. The project has drawn many people downtown to view these works of art. In fact many people like them so much they can't wait for the auction in December.

In January, Loie LeTour, a "tourist" lizard, was stolen from downtown. The thieves cut him from his base and made off with him. Vandalism is a regular occur-

rence.

"It has happened since the beginning since they hit the streets," Cummings said. "They just replaced one that was knocked over by a drunk guy. He went to hug it, and knocked it over and destroyed it."

The repair costs for the lizards is unknown as of right now, due to the fact that repairs have just begun. The repairs are not expected to drive up the cost of the lizards at auction time.

"[Orlando] might do frogs in the future" to raise more money for the arts Cummings said. "Miami is going to be doing Flamingos, and

other cities in Florida will probably follow."

Cities such as Chicago, New Orleans and Zurich, where the idea originated, have raised millions for the arts programs through projects much like this one. "She [Hood] saw a similar project, thought it was a great idea and knew we had to do it here," Cummings said.

Cummings is a University of Central Florida Intern with City Hall. As a marketing major, Cummings job is to market the LizArt, getting sponsors to buy and display the lizards, as well as writing copy about the Lizards. She also designs promotional ideas to keep the public interested.

Some such ideas are trivia contests through local radio stations. Prizes will include free LizArt merchandise such as T-shirts and posters. Another idea being thought about is to have a local gift-store downtown sell and promote LizArt merchandise. The profits would go towards the local arts as well.



PHOTOS BY ADAM SHIVER



NATHAN HOLIC
SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

Pi Kapp Princess Crowned
Pi Kappa Phi fraternity held

its second annual "Pi Kapp Princess" pageant for female contestants from each UCF sorority, and over 500 students watched as Kristen Harvey of Alpha Delta Pi won the Princess crown.

Nine women entered, and were judged on many different criteria before the event had even started. In addition to a pageant

application and videotaped interview process, each girl also entered a creative project that followed the pageant's theme of "Storybook Knight."

Contestants competed in beachwear, formal wear and talent competitions. Some contestants sang - Heather Kershaw of Alpha Xi Delta gave a rendition of "Blessed," dedicated to the fra-

ternity and Angel Castilleja sang "Reflections." One contestant, Heidi Hummel of Delta Delta Delta, used sign language while "Summer Lovin'" played in the background.

Kristen Harvey took home the crown, having read a poem set to a slide show of the fraternity brothers. One of the pageant's main purposes was philanthropy,

and this year Pi Kapp Princess raised money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; each contestant fund-raised with the help of her sorority, and the collected donations of all participants totaled over \$4000. Last year the philanthropy to raised food for the homeless and school supplies for under-privileged children.

Mom says
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news

healthnut

Dear Health Nut,

I'm a little embarrassed about asking this, but I am dying for an answer. For the past week, I have been experiencing a burning pain when I urinate. I also have to go a million times a day. My friends have been kidding with me about having a tiny bladder, but I think it's something more than that. I've heard that a urinary tract infection causes these symptoms, but how do I know if that's what I have? And if so, how do I treat it?

Sincerely,
TB

Dear TB,

I feel your pain. Urinary tract infections or UTIs can be one of the most painful infections in the world. They are quite common among women, but rarely occur in men. If treated quickly, these bladder infections are not serious. However, if you wait to seek treatment, it can lead to a kidney infection, which is even more painful.

Symptoms include:

- A burning sensation during urination
- Difficulty urinating
- A frequent urge to urinate
- Urine with a strong odor
- Bladder spasms

things you can do to ease the pain and help your body fight the infection. Scientists at Rutgers Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension Center in Chatworth, N.J. say cranberries contain elements to aid infection fighting. They discovered that cranberries prevent bacteria from attaching to the urinary tract.

Try drinking several glasses of cranberry juice each day, but make sure you get the kind without sugar. Sugar slows the white blood cells' ability to kill bacteria, so it's important to stay away from all refined sugar at this time.

You can also get cranberry extract in capsule for at many drug stores and health food stores. The recommended dosage is 400 mg twice a day.

Doctors also recommend 5,000 mg of vitamin C per day for an acute UTI. It makes urine acidic, making it difficult for bacteria to grow.

Most importantly, make sure you are drinking lots of fluids. It is imperative that you continue to flush out your bladder often.

This should help, but if you are not feeling like your old self after a few days of this regimen, make an appointment to see your doctor to get a prescription for some antibiotics.

The Health Nut

Fortunately, there are some

Have a physical, or mental health question? Send them to the Health Nut. The Health Nut can be reached at healthnut@ucffuture.com

Police Beat

JAMES NUNEZ
STAFF WRITER

No Viper security system?

Christopher Paine planned to ride his Specialized Rock Hopper mountain bike on Jan. 22. However, when he arrived at the bike rack near Osceola Hall, he discovered that someone else had the same idea.

The bike is blue in color with a yellow Rock Shock front suspension. The bike's tires were orange with chrome rims. It has red handgrips, a red bottle holder and a speedometer. The bike was valued at roughly \$900. Paine is willing to press charges. If you know anything about the crime, please call the police crime line at 423-TIPS.

A regular Sherlock

On Jan. 31, Officer Mike Johnson headed to the west parking garage in an attempt to aid a "parking patroller." Noticing that a vehicle's steering wheel column was broken, the patroller feared some suspicious activity.

Officer Johnson then ran the

car's tags through the FCIC and discovered that the 1994 Honda four door had been stolen right out of Oviedo. The Oviedo Police Department confirmed the theft and the vehicle was impounded. No evidence was taken from the car.

On a more serious note

Police, responding to a 911 call, arrived in front of the west parking garage to find three Parking Services trucks that had been severely vandalized.

Officers observed a cinderblock atop the hood of each truck. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the vandals had used the concrete blocks to smash in the windshields of the Chevy S-10's. The tires of one vehicle had been slashed.

A building service's employee reported that she had been walking from the garage when she heard two loud crashes. She saw the cars, but no suspects. If anyone has any information about this crime, please call 423-TIPS.

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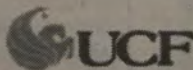
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opinion

Bush tries to fill big shoes of Clinton

KATIE GIRAULO
STAFF WRITER

Certified, not elected. No, folks, the person who was elected President of the United States, both electorally and popularly, is ironically not sitting at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Instead we've got an unhappy two

year old in the body of an aging politician, calling himself a "uniter," not a divider. Since we won't see any of that unity for another four years when no one wants to put up with the toddler in the executive office anymore, I figured we'd recap with what our last real president has done for us in the last eight years. President Clinton, for all his bedroom

transgressions, he and his administration meant wonderful things for Americans, especially those of us who are college-aged.

President Clinton made a college education more accessible than ever. By encouraging state scholarships and federal assistance for those who couldn't afford to but deserved to attend college, more young people than ever are going to on to college after high school. Count me as one. I just cashed that Stafford Loan check. Glad I'll have graduated before Bush can get his hands on my edu-

cation. We'll talk about vouchers when I have kids – and how a once President Clinton actually believed in the public school system.

President Clinton approved Congress's deficit reduction bill, allowing abortion counseling in federally funded clinics; thus providing a safer and more accessible option for women in need. His popular phrase was that abortions should be safe, accessible and rare. The other guy in office now has some catch-

STUDENT, Page A-10

GRAY MATTERS Equal work for equal pay

CHRIS ZAPATIER
STAFF WRITER

The midday Miami sun beat down on my back like mammoth gamma-ray fists and I was beginning to experience symptoms indicative of a heat stroke. My task at the moment was unloading large, heavy wooden blocks from a truck.

Naturally the ladies of the group were assigned less physically challenging tasks which they dutifully executed. Now here's where things get a little odd: at the end of the week, I received a check for the exact same amount of money as my female co-workers, despite my substantial additional physical contributions. Looking back, I do not recall hearing any of the females in the group demanding to be assigned the same onerous, laborious tasks which were automatically assigned to me solely because of my sex, nor did I see any NOW protesters demanding that I share the burden of my strenuous toil with my female counterparts, and I never got a letter from the ACLU threatening to file suit against me for sexual discrimination.

Currently, I am a cast member in a theatrical production in Downtown Orlando. Part of every cast member's contractual obligation is to assemble the set before each show and disassemble it after each show. Part of "striking the set" is removing the sandbags and the props, and stacking cumbersome wooden flats barbed with malevolent screws. The duty of returning the props to their storage facility, (props include a couch, a table, and a small staircase) falls on the shoulders of the males in the cast by default-meaning that the female cast members are conspicuously unavailable when these labors need to be undertaken. Generally the girls do not assist because they are too busy lighting up cigarettes and engaging in mindless, endless chatter. Yet at the end of the week, every cast member receives the same amount of

money for an unequal distribution of work - that's fair, isn't it?

Concerning the great patriarchal conspiracy of oppression against women in the workplace: An employer spends a great deal of time, monetary, and human resources preparing and equipping an employee for his/her assigned job. Women historically received lower wages and less prestigious positions than men because employers knew that the majority of them would only be working until they were married, at which point they would retire to the full-time job of motherhood. There was a time not too long ago when being a good mother to a child was considered something to be proud of, before radical feminism brainwashed young women into believing that staying at home with their child(ren) the way Mother Nature intended was selling themselves short.

I do not deny that a glass ceiling exists in many "Boys club" corporations which have been male-dominated for decades. Certainly some old-fashioned men in the white-collar world resent today's career-minded woman for her disregard and defiance of old-school gender roles and see her ability to do her job equally well as an insult to their masculinity. And of course I believe that a woman who possesses the same level of education and holds equally impressive credentials as Man#1 deserves equal consideration for a position and equal compensation for filling that position, but she should be held to the exact same standards as Man#1. I have heard of female firefighters, police officers and military personnel being held to lower physical criterion than their male counterparts, but I have never heard anyone complain about it. If you want to be considered an equal, you have to prove yourself an equal, bottom line. At the risk of sounding like my mother, (a successful working woman AND successful homemaker) "You can't have your cake and eat it to."

Letters to the Editor

Let's keep politics out of our state universities

Since the turn of the last century, Florida's government has had a deal with its students: You graduate high school, we make available low-cost, high-quality state universities for you to continue your education.

The state is heading perilously close to dropping its end of the bargain by dissolving the Board of Regents and replacing it with boards of trustees to govern each university separately.

The Board of Regents was born in the 1960s with two major goals; keeping politics out of the universities, and ensuring the system is run from a statewide perspective.

Concern about political interference was well-placed. In the late 1950s, State Senator Charley Johns' infamous "Johns Committee" unleashed ruthless private investigators on state university campuses to ferret out alleged communists and homosexuals.

The independent Board of Regents created a buffer zone between the politicians in Tallahassee and the scholars at universities around the state.

The Board of Regents could also ensure that, for example, the state doesn't

have five law schools, but not a single school of pharmacy.

While the Regents have performed their functions admirably, reform is needed. But the reforms should strengthen the board by making it part of the Florida Constitution, not weaken it and drag down Florida's universities in the process.

The best argument for bolstering the Regents is the very reason it is now nearing extinction. Lawmakers abolished the board after it did a careful, professional evaluation of their pet programs and decided they were unnecessary.

A constitutional amendment could further boost the Regents' efficacy and independence by mandating a lump-sum appropriation to the board to run the system. This would keep the Legislature from trying to micro-manage the universities, leaving the structure of the system up to an independent board answerable to the whole state.

The citizens of Florida deserve a chance to vote on the future of their universities. After all, the universities are their future, and the future of their children.

-Zev Simpser

Credit card debt receives comment

I read the "UCF students deep in credit card debt" and make the following comment.

The UCF Alumni Association was correct to respond to the excessive give a ways. But did it by establishing a monopoly through their single contract with MBNA. The monopoly is used to then establish some minimum standards that MBNA has agreed to comply with.

The libertarian solution would include competition rather than establish-

ing a monopoly. The problem was not the number of competitors; it was the behavior of the other card providers. Fixing that should not replace one ill with another.

Competition is a good thing. When the contract with MBNA is up for review, please consider revising it to permit others who agree to your minimum standards without the monopoly status.

-Mark Clifford

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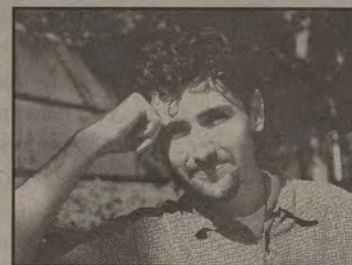
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opinion

Insipid Thoughts Super Survival



ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Think about it

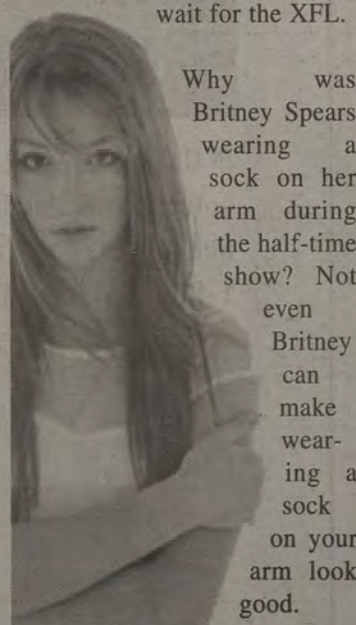
What do fish think about all day long? Swimming around in a fish-tank all the time, no change of scenery, no new fish-friends ever come to visit, and you have no choice in when you eat. The life of a fish can't be fun. And who wants to eat those little dry flakes they call fish food?

Lean, mean and colorful too

George Foreman is a smart man. Not only does he currently have one of the best-selling home appliances, the George Foreman Lean Mean Fat Reducing Grill for singles and families, he has begun pushing his product in the college market. As if every college kid doesn't already have one, George has taken and overhauled the grill to have colorful, iMac style, see-thru lids. Brilliant move Mr. Foreman.

Super Bowl Sunday

Well, the Super Bowl has come and gone again, and left me with little excitement. Sure, three touchdowns in a matter of 36 seconds of play is astounding, but other than that, it was kind of hum-drum. The commercials were not even really that impressive, not counting the new Doritos spot. The only thing that was fairly well done was the half-time show, featuring acts such as Aerosmith, N'Sync, Britney Spears, and more. But it was only as good as it was due to MTV's involvement . . . I can't wait for the XFL.



Why was Britney Spears wearing a sock on her arm during the half-time show? Not even Britney can make wearing a sock on your arm look good.

A new technology used at this year's Super Bowl was the EyeView. This system uses a series of cameras located around the complex to provide an eagle-eye view of the action on the field from just about any angle. Just goes to show how something that was invented for music videos and commercials has taken its place in sports. Next thing you know they will have it in 7-elevens everywhere to catch those hold-up men.

When life gets bad

When you think your life is bad, just turn on the television and watch Jerry Springer or Ricki Lake. Watching all those freaks will make you feel much better about yourself.

And you get a laugh or two out of it as well.

Tuesdays

Did you know that statistically women are most likely to give birth on a Tuesday? Or so I have read.

Survival of the greediest

My Thursdays will be full of yelling at the TV screen once again. Survivor II is here and so far seems like it will be quite interesting. Debb was annoying from the get-go. I am rooting for Kimmi the bartender. Who are you rooting for, and why? E-mail me and let me know and I will run your e-mails and my responses in this section each week.

Getting Wild On...

Will E! Television's series 'Wild On' ever run out of places to be wild on? They will eventually get desperate for places to be wild. 'Wild On Berlin,' 'Wild On Pakistan,' or maybe even 'Wild On Moscow.'

Don't take a little off the top

While I complain quite frequently about the high price of a hair cut, Great Clips has just done something that I don't feel is a good idea. They are advertising \$4.99 hair cuts. There is no way I am going to trust someone to cut my hair for five bucks! I

Quote of the week:

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

-Will Rogers

Adam Shiver can be reached at adam@ucffuture.com.

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opinion

Student praises term limitations

FROM PAGE A-8

ing up to do. During his first breath in office he told the world what he thought of a women's right to bodily privacy by removing any federal funding for international organizations supporting abortion. Cause for alarm? Nah. Just what happens when a thief breaks into a big house.

Back to a real president. Bill Clinton also encouraged an equal pay act and acknowledged that women should no longer have to suffer unequal pay because of their gender. He helped pass the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, leading to the establishment of the World Trade Organization in 1995.

On the whole, he tried to keep doors open and minds ready to grow. This, in comparison to our new pseudo-president, who is about ready to start the next military coup with his supposedly-necessary beefing up of the military to Cold War level.

Clinton also cared about children and felt that their rights to freedom and equal protection were more important than — gasp! — those of the NRA. In his deficit reduction bill that passed, a waiting period for handgun purchases (the Brady Bill) was established.

Instead of trying to incite violence, he made strides to improve relations in the Middle East and encourage peace: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed the Israel-Jordan peace agreement in 1994 at Clinton's White House.

All in all, the Clinton administration carried America through the greatest prosperity, packaged with the most jobs, most health-care covered, most educated, safe, and peaceful populous in decades. Now then. How quickly can we make four years pass so that we can get some real work done again? It's called Follow the Leader, Dubya. Oh yeah. That's supposed to be you.

Thank the Lord for term limits.

Ranting and Raving: Car wash causes aneurysm

CHRIS HALE
STAFF WRITER

About a week ago I was lucky enough to purchase an 88 Honda Civic CRX. But this wasn't just any CRX, it's a CRX with a Ls/VTEC motor in it. Now to all you import junkies out there I'll take my applause after my little dissertation here. So this car's really fast, it looks slow. I love this car like a child.

When I go to get gas for my "child" I put only premium Mobile 1 gasoline in it. Primarily because it needs it, but also because I love the car. Well one Saturday night I was sitting in Mobile 1 getting gas with my credit card and the nice little pay at the pump machine asked me if I was interested in getting a car wash. Like I said, I love my car so how could I pass up a chance to do something good for my baby? So I press the "yes" button and then go on filling my little Honda up with gas.

The car wash place is out behind the filling station at Mobile. I drove my beloved out to the place where I'm supposed to type in my code so I can get my car washed. My receipt didn't have a code on it so I was forced to go in and pay for a car-wash again because I hadn't been charged for it the first time. So I'm cool, this is ok, I'll just go in and pay for it again, no problem. I should have known that washing your car isn't supposed to be this hard.

I walked out to my little CRX and started the motor, punched in the code for the car wash and drove forward into the gaping mouth of the car wash. The first thing that my car's hit with is a blast of water coming from the bottom of the car wash. This isn't good because my car has an open intake tract. If water gets in there the engine dies and I have a very expensive repair bill to think about. So when I finally pull my beloved up to the place where the computer tells me to stop I

killed the engine and turned the lights off.

The first thing that's painfully obvious to me, after my car's been sprayed down with water and soap, is that there are two huge rotating blue scrubbers that are about to ravage the side, front and back of my car at about 33,000 rpm. This would be fine for any other car, but my car isn't exactly new anymore.

As the brushes pass the front of the car I hear a horrible, "SCREECH!" as the brushes mangle the newly installed driving lights that I have put on the front of my car. As the brushes move back to my driver and passenger side window I hear another screech as the brushes also mangle my gas door and rip the little side markers off of the car.

By this time I'm nearly comatose in my drivers seat and I'm wondering what the repair bills for all of this are going to be. Thinking that the worst is over I return to my

normal driving position only to hear two huge vacuum type blowers start up behind me. Then as if the car wash is just trying to make this hellish little experience just that much worse, my car is hit by hundred mile per hour winds coming from every direction. No person in their right mind would drive through a hurricane in a CRX. After the car has been "blown over" three times fully, I'm instructed to drive forward so the next customer can drive into the car wash. I drive forward and jump out of the car as it clears the blast area. The first thing that I fix is the driving lights. They are both pointed to the extreme left. Then I walked around to find most of the car pleasantly clean, except for the, now missing, side markers, and the bent gas door.

So am I saying to not get a car wash at Mobile 1? No, what I'm saying is that you shouldn't eat fish sticks and pickles when drinking orange juice. It leads to diarrhea.

Left Coast

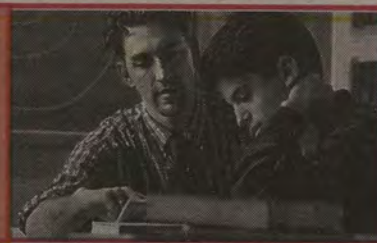
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sports

From the Sports Desk

UCF stands out at Tiger Classic, women's tennis dominates Rice

The UCF women's track and field team delivered a standout performance by racking up five top-five finishes at the Tiger Classic Indoor Meet, which was hosted by Clemson this weekend.

The Golden Knights sophomore class took home four of those finishes. Kristen Newsome took fourth place in the pole vault with a personal-best height of 10'10", and Shannon Ryan followed in fifth place with a height of 10'4". Kelly Roloff took home top-five honors in two events, placing fourth in the high jump with a 5' 3.75" mark and fourth in the triple jump at 36' 6.75".

Senior Brianne Harrington earned the remaining top-five finish with her fourth-place time of 10:39 in the 3,000-meter run.

The UCF women's track team will compete next on Feb. 9-10 in Indianapolis at the Cannon Indoor Invitational, hosted by Butler University.

Women's tennis dominates No. 62 Rice

The UCF women's tennis team, ranked No. 50 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll, defeated No. 62 Rice 6-1 Saturday afternoon at the Jake Hess Tennis Stadium in Houston, Texas.

UCF swept doubles action to claim the first point of the match. In singles, the Golden Knights raced to a 3-0 lead behind victories from junior Marieke Gunawan and freshman Anna Westin. Gunawan dismissed Judith Hagedorn, 6-2, 6-2, at the No. 2 position and Westin defeated Natalie Briaud, 6-1, 6-2, in the No. 3 slot. Senior Ann-Jeanette Svantesson outlasted Erin Waters for a hard-fought 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 victory at No. 1 to give UCF its sixth point of the day.

With the win, the Golden Knights improved to 2-0 on the year and 1-0 in the all-time series with the Owls. UCF returns to action Feb. 4 for a matchup with No. 75 Houston at the Houston Varsity Courts. Singles:

1. Ann-Jeanette Svantesson (UCF) def. Erin Waters (RU) 2-6, 7-5, 7-6
2. Marieke Gunawan (UCF) def. Judith Hagedorn (RU) 6-2, 6-2
3. Anna Westin (UCF) def. Natalie Briaud (RU) 6-1, 6-2
4. Julie Pecastaing (UCF) def. Annie Goodrich (RU) 6-3, 7-5
5. No. 74 Sonja Prokopec (UCF) def. Yasmin Fisher (RU) 6-4, 6-2
6. Karen Chao (RU) def. Daniela Okal (UCF) 1-6, 6-4, 7-5

Doubles:

1. Gunawan/Prokopec (UCF) vs. Waters/Briaud (RU) 8-1
2. Svantesson/Okal (UCF) def. Hagedorn/Fisher (RU) 8-3
3. Westin/Pecastaing (UCF) def. Goodrich/Chao (RU) 8-3

UCF's home opener rained out

The UCF men's tennis match with Bethune-Cookman was canceled due to

inclement weather on Friday afternoon. The match has been rescheduled for Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. at the UCF Tennis Complex.

The Golden Knights return to action on Feb. 6, when they travel to Jacksonville, Fla., for a Trans America Athletic Conference matchup with Jacksonville University. Match time is set for 2 p.m.

Hardman will not return for senior season

UCF football coach Mike Kruczek announced last week that linebacker Tony Hardman will not return for his senior season due to personal medical reasons. Hardman, who was third on the team with 96 tackles last year, led the nation in total fumbles forced and recovered with seven in 10 games.

Sophomore Antoine Poe, who had 18 tackles last year as Hardman's backup, will likely enter spring practice as the starting Will linebacker.



JEFF DOLNACK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



ATO rallies to claim Wiffleball championship over Sigma Chi

ATO scored 12 runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and shutout Sigma Chi in their last at-bat to secure a 38-29 victory in the Wiffleball finals. Sigma Chi jumped out early with 18 runs in the first inning, but could only put together 11

more runs the rest of the game. Tommy Gilligan and Jason Graham led the way for ATO with eight runs each. ATO avenged a 16-15 loss to Sigma Chi in the first round of the tournament, cruising after that defeat to the finals. Raymond Stefanell led Sigma Chi with eight runs.

Team CREOL cruises to tennis doubles championship

Vladislav Dubikorsky and J. Hales laid claim to the Tennis Doubles championship with a 6-2 win over Steve Showers and Emelio Rivera. The tournament was postponed from its original date of Jan. 20 due to bad weather, and was concluded this past weekend. CREOL showed no signs of weakness, going undefeated in the round-robin portion of the tournament, including an 8-6 win over Showers and Rivera in the first round. Lisa Duke and Javier Gonzalez combined to win the Co-ed division.



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sports

UCF bounces back in second game of series against FIU

FROM PAGE A-20

the first inning.

FIU broke the game open in the top of the eighth inning, getting a leadoff home run from Brendan Hines and scoring two more runs on a throwing error by UCF reliever Paul Lubrano.

Bergman said that all the hype leading up to Saturday's game, which included a stadium dedication ceremony just prior to the first pitch, was a distraction for his team.

"It's been hard all week long with the anticipation of everything," he said. "We just didn't have much. It was a grand day, don't get me wrong, but I think it's hard to play sometimes in that situation."

UCF bounced back on Sunday, however, with three Golden Knight pitchers combining on a 9-0 shutout of FIU (3-1). Converted reliever Jason Arnold allowed three hits and struck out eight in 5.2 innings, and Von Stertzach and Abe Gonzalez finished the game off in relief.

UCF (1-1) put the game away early, scoring five runs in the first inning. Kurella,

Ehrnsberger and catcher Jeremy Frost each had two hits for the Golden Knights.

Kurella Starts Well

Senior Jeremy Kurella hit an RBI double and scored in the first inning of UCF's loss on Saturday. That was Kurella's first at bat in a Golden Knight uniform. Kurella transferred to UCF this year after playing for three years at Northwestern University, where he was an All-Big Ten selection two years in a row. He was also named as a third-team preseason All-American this year. He finished the game 1-4.

On Sunday, Kurella added two more hits, including an RBI single, and scored a run. He now has a 15-game hitting streak that dates back to last year.

Lubrano Debuts

Freshman left-handed pitcher and local product Paul Lubrano played in his first collegiate game on Saturday, pitching the final 1 1/3 innings of UCF's 6-2 loss to FIU. Lubrano was a high school star just down the road from UCF at Oviedo High School. He got off to a tough start in the eighth inning, walking the first batter he faced and making a

two-run throwing error, but he settled down in the ninth and pitched a scoreless final inning. **Golden Panther hits first home run at Bergman Field**

UCF was unable to hit the first-ever home run in Jay Bergman Field, as FIU designated hitter Brenden Hines led off the eighth inning of Saturday's game with a blast over the left field fence. It was the second homer of the year for Hines.

Arnold and Kurella Nominated for Award

UCF's Jason Arnold and Jeremy Kurella have been included on the 2001 Rotary Smith Award committee's watch list, which is the award that honors the nation's top collegiate baseball player.

More than 160 Division I players are under consideration to become the winner of the 14th annual award, which will be handed out in Houston on June 28. The preliminary watch list was compiled following submissions from the sports information personnel at all of the Division I baseball schools in the country. Additional nominations will be added to the list until the first round of voting begins in May.

Kip Bouknight, last year's winner, returns for his senior season at South Carolina to make a bid at becoming the first two-time winner of the Rotary Smith Award. Among the other notables on the watch list 2000 first-round draft pick Aaron Heilman of Notre Dame and 2000 Team USA members Josh Karp (UCLA), Mark Prior (Southern Cal), Devon Brazelton (Tennessee State), Bobby Crosby (Long Beach State), Ryan Budde (Oklahoma State) and Casey Myers and Jon Switzer of Arizona State.

Arnold, a pitcher, and Kurella, a short-stop, are among six Trans America Athletic Conference players included on the list. The others are Peterson Benjamin (RHP, Florida Atlantic), Frank Corr (OF, Stetson), Lenny DiNardo (LHP, Stetson) and Chad Oliva (C, Jacksonville).

Voting to determine the list of 12 semifinalists will begin near the end of April and the list will be announced at the conclusion of the regular season. Three finalists will be announced before the start of NCAA Super Regional play, the week of June 1-3.



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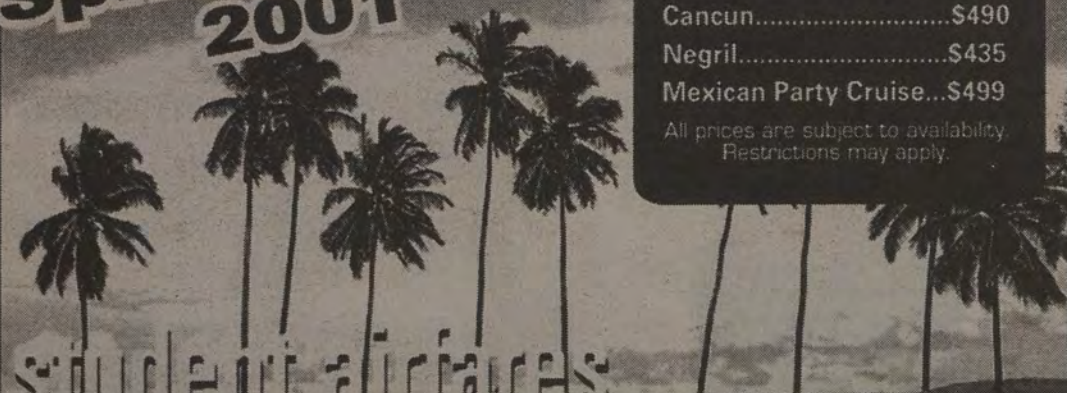
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sports

Men's golf relies on young talent for upcoming season

NEAL FISHER
STAFF WRITER

One year ago, when Brian Craig accepted his first head coaching position at UCF, the Golden Knight men's golf program needed an overhaul. Now, in his second season at UCF, he has assembled a team that looks to have a very good future.

However, the team is young and inexperienced. The UCF men's golf team is the youngest team in the country. The roster has 12 freshmen, one sophomore and three juniors. Only five golfers participate in every tournament. During the fall semester at least four freshmen started in every tournament the Knights participated in and on several occasions all five of the golfers were freshman.

"There's no question the talent is there," said Craig. "It's an individual sport, but we need everyone to come together as a team. We need to learn how to uplift each other, support each other and practice as a team."

These are lessons that Craig brought with him from the University of Florida, where he played his collegiate golf. He then accepted a position as an assistant coach at his alma mater.

The five golfers who will represent UCF at tournaments have yet to be named, and will likely change throughout the year. Competing for those spots will be talented freshmen Jordan Dempsey, Andy Hollis, Brendan Takacs, Matt LaConche, Kevin Kahle and Stephan Davis, sophomore Ben Osbrich and junior Travis Anstett. Because of the team's youth, Craig is looking for the experienced players to exhibit leadership.



Craig

"We need more guys to step up and be leaders," said Craig. "I'm looking for some guys to show those leadership skills, to understand that this is their team. They need to take a little bit more ownership, a little more accountability and if we do that, we have a bright future, not only for this year, but for the future."

The team struggled during its fall schedule, finishing no better than seventh in five tournaments. However, Craig believes these tournaments will benefit the team during the spring season, as they provided the first collegiate playing experience for many of the young players. Craig's goal this semester is all-around improvement, hoping to be good enough by the season's end to upset Trans America Athletic Conference favorite Georgia

State to win the TAAC title and earn an NCAA Tournament bid.

"With the young team we have, improvement tends to come a little bit faster, because the learning curve is steeper," said Craig. "Come April I believe we'll have a strong chance to upset Georgia State and win the conference."

Georgia State is the defending conference champion and earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament last year. The Panthers return all their players from last year's championship team. Jacksonville and Troy State are also considered capable of making a run at Georgia State.

UCF will get answers to many of its questions immediately, as a very competitive spring schedule begins Feb. 9-11 with the Gator Invitational in Gainesville, Fla. The Golden Knights will play against Southeastern Conference teams and Georgia Southern at this tournament, which Craig hopes will be a confidence builder for his young team.

"I think we have a bright future for this year and the years to come, simply because of the talented youth on the team," he said. "We need to do well at one tournament to give us the confidence we need to do well in the future. This could be that one tournament."

In addition to being a coming of age tournament for the youthful team, a good finish at the Gator Invitational would help UCF overcome its fall record. Even though the spring schedule is twice as long as the fall schedule, both count the same. This will be important when the NCAA chooses its at-large bids for the regional tournaments. The NCAA has three regional tournaments consisting of 30 teams. The top ten schools from each regional tournament receive bids to play in the NCAA Tournament. The selection process is similar to the NCAA basketball or baseball tournaments. There are only so many automatic bids given out to conference champions to play in the regional tournaments and then the remaining spots are filled by at-large bids. One of the criteria used for at-large bids is how a team plays at the end of the season, and another is head-to-head match-ups with other potential at-large teams. The Gator Invitational provides an excellent opportunity to play well against tough competition.

Other tournaments that UCF will play in this spring include the Ron Smith/USF Invitational on Feb. 23-25, the LSU Spring Invitational on Mar. 5-6, the Seminole Collegiate on Mar. 13-14, the Alabama Spring Invitational on Mar. 23-25, the TAAC Championships on Apr. 23-25 and the Atlanta Intercollegiate on May 10-11.



Record-setting wide receiver Tyson Hinshaw won't be around next season when the Golden Knights play one of the toughest schedules in school history.

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

2001 football schedule includes many tough opponents

FROM PAGE A-20

The move takes away one of UCF's home games next season, as the Golden Knights will now have five home games and six away games. According to Sloan, however, this is not a problem because of the size of UCF's fan base.

"We have a crowd that really supports about five home games," he said. "As the program grows, they'll support about five, six or seven, but we're probably at the five level. I really didn't like having six home games to start with, so that was part of the good part of the whole thing. I wouldn't have done it if it put us below five (home games)."

Following the switch of opponents, UCF officially released its 2001 football schedule last week. In what could be one of the schools' toughest schedules

ever, the Golden Knights will play road games at Clemson, Syracuse, Virginia Tech, Arkansas, Tulane and Utah State, and home games against Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, Akron, UAB and Liberty. The game against Liberty, a I-AA opponent, was originally scheduled to be against Louisiana Tech, but the Bulldogs have postponed that game.

"It's a very demanding schedule and our guys are looking forward to it as well as the coaching staff," said UCF Head Coach Mike Kruczek. "It's got to be as tough a schedule as anybody has in this country, but it's a schedule we need to bring more respect to this program."

The Golden Knights will open the season on Sept. 1 at Clemson, followed by a Sept. 8 game at Syracuse. UCF will play its home opener on Sept. 15 against Louisiana-Lafayette.

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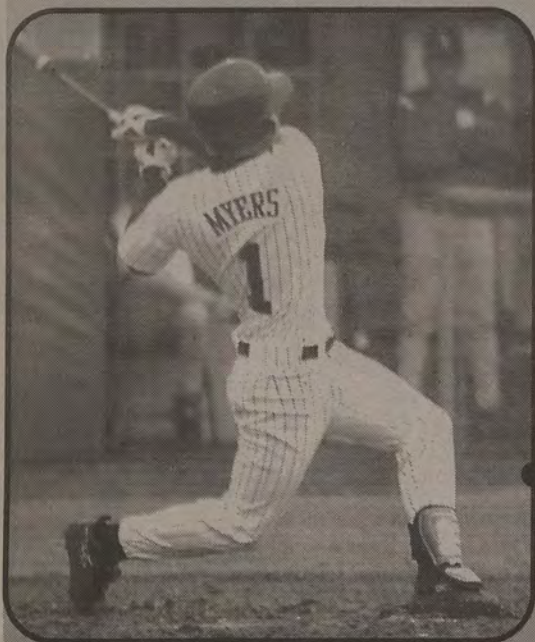
Opening Day at Jay Bergman Field

PHOTOS BY JASON KOKOTOFF

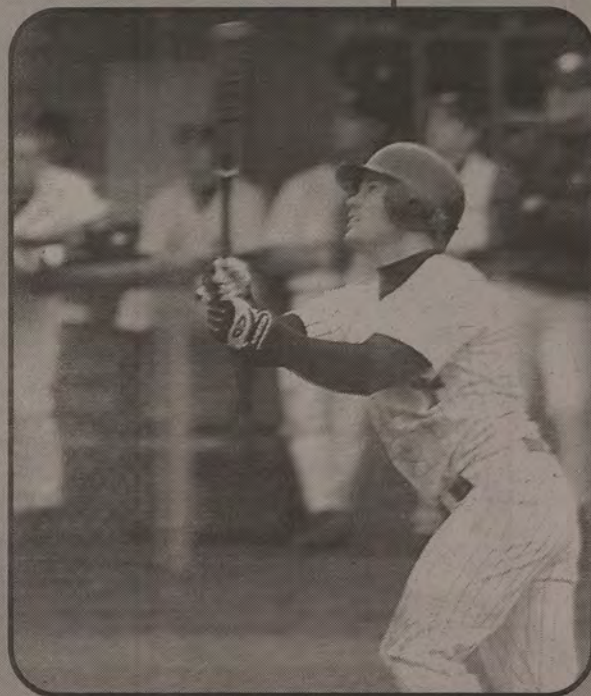
UCF center fielder Mike Myers slides in to score UCF's first-ever run at Bergman Field.



Myers swings for the fences.



UCF starting pitcher Justin Pope gets congratulated by teammates after leaving the game in the 6th.



UCF managed only three hits off FIU starter William Collazo on Opening Day.

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sports

UCF baseball coach Jay Bergman throws out the ceremonial first pitch.



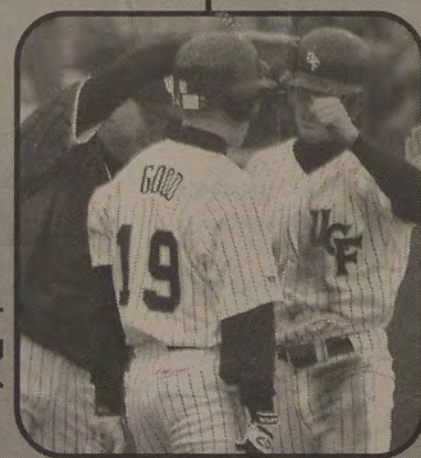
Designated hitter Rich Wallace has one of UCF's most powerful bats.



Pope pitched 5.2 innings in the game, allowing two earned runs and striking out nine batters.



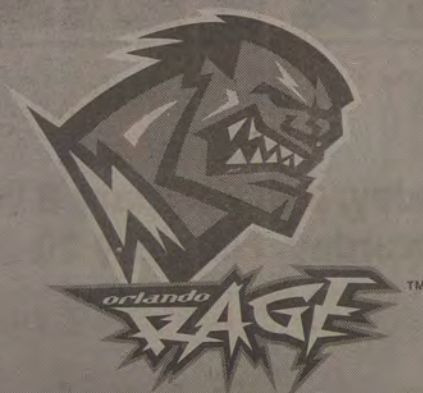
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sports

Women's Basketball Notebook

KRISTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

UCF has dropped six consecutive TAAC games

The UCF women's basketball team has now lost six straight games following losses to Georgia State and Campbell this week.

The Golden Knights lost to Campbell 63-54 on Saturday, an improvement over their 70-53 loss to the Camels on Jan. 27. UCF went into the locker room against the Camels trailing by only three points and tied the game at 42 with 7:52 left in the game, but Campbell regained the lead for good with 6:27 left on the clock.

Lanetra Cooks scored a career-high 21 points in the losing effort, hitting four three-pointers. Marvelous Washington was the only other Golden Knight

to reach double figures with 12 points in the game.

On Thursday, UCF traveled to Georgia State where they were dealt a defeat similar to the one the Lady Panthers handed them on Jan. 25. On Jan. 25, UCF lost 73-53 and last Thursday GSU beat the Golden Knights 74-55.

UCF was leading going into halftime, but the Lady Panthers shot 56.5 percent from the field and outscored the Golden Knights 46-25 in the second half. UCF's final lead of the game came just over seven minutes into the second period, but GSU responded with an 11-1 run. The run, combined with 25 percent shooting from the Golden

Knights in the second half, cemented the victory for the Lady Panthers.



The development of freshman forward Adrienne Billings has been a bright spot for the UCF women this season.

PHOTO BY ADAM SHIVER

Cooks and Adrienne Billings were the only Golden Knights to reach double figures. Cooks had 16 points and three steals, while Billings added 13 points and seven rebounds.

This week UCF comes home to play Stetson on Thursday and Jacksonville on Saturday.

Cooks heats up

Lanetra Cooks, a transfer from Tallahassee Community College, is averaging 12.75 points in her last four games for the Golden Knights. She has also hit eight three-pointers during that stretch.

Cooks was only averaging 5.9 points a game prior to this offensive outburst. She set a new career-high against Campbell with 21 points. She hit four three-pointers in that game as well.

At TCC, Cooks set the record for most three-pointers made with 60 during her freshman year. In her sophomore year, she broke her own record by hitting 72 three's.

News and Notes

UCF is third in the TAAC in

rebounding margin with +4...The Golden Knights are fourth in three-point percentage with 32.3 percent and in offensive rebounds with 15.32 a game...Adrienne Billings is second in the conference in offensive rebounds with 3.37, eighth in rebounding with 7.1, eleventh in blocks with 0.74 a game and 13th in defensive rebounds with 3.68...LaToya Graham is 11th in the conference in rebounding with 6.1 a game...She is 12th in blocks with 0.72 and in defensive rebounding with 3.94...Graham is also 13th in offensive boards with 2.17...Nicole Dunson is fifth in the TAAC in three-point field goal percentage with 33 percent and sixth in three-pointers made with 1.53 a game...Marvelous Washington is 15th in the conference in free throw shooting percentage with 69.1 percent.

Men's Basketball Notebook

KRISTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

UCF extends losing streak to four games

The UCF men's basketball team lost its fourth straight game Saturday when it fell to Florida Atlantic 62-55. The loss was the first suffered by UCF at the hands of FAU in nine games.

The Golden Knights were down 31-26 at halftime, but tied the game at 48 with 6:30 left in the second half. A three-pointer by FAU's Earnest Crumbley gave the lead back to the Owls and they never relinquished it.

UCF shot 52.2 percent in the second half, but only shot 28.6 percent in the first. Paul Reed led all players with 14 points and Jason Thornton had 11 for the Golden Knights.

On Wednesday, UCF fell at home to Hampton University in overtime, despite a season-high 19 points from Thornton.

The Golden Knights led 34-29 at halftime and held a 12-point lead with 10:39 left in the game. The Pirates countered with a 14-2 run to tie the score at 62 with 5:49 left. There were five lead changes and two ties to end the second period. Hampton's Tarvis Williams hit two free throws with 17 seconds left to tie it at 68. Al Miller missed a three-pointer for UCF with four seconds left and the game went into overtime.

In overtime, the Pirates outscored the Golden Knights 10-6. Kevin Lee and Reed were the only UCF players to score in the extra period. The Pirates went on to win 78-74, with Williams leading all players with 37 points.

Thornton was one of four Golden Knights to reach double figures. Lee scored 16, Joey Graham had 12 and Reed added 11. UCF shot 45.9 percent from the floor for the game, but only shot 33.3 percent in overtime.

UCF Head Coach Kirk Speraw was pleased with the improved offensive output.

"We did a lot of good

things," said Speraw. "We shot the ball much better tonight. It makes a huge difference when we're able to knock down some shots. I thought we played much better defense."

UCF held Hampton to 38.4 percent shooting from the floor, but the Pirates had 23 offensive rebounds compared to only 10 for the Golden Knights. According to Speraw, second-chance points were the difference in the game.

"We didn't rebound the ball to win the game," said Speraw. "We'd get stops down there and they'd rebound it, and if they didn't rebound it they'd take it out of our hands and lay it in. That was a big part of the game. We weren't tough on the offensive boards and we can't do that."

Thornton makes impact off the bench

It appears that junior forward Jason Thornton has come out of the offensive slump he had been suffering from lately. He scored 19 points against Hampton on Wednesday and 11 against Florida Atlantic on Saturday.

Thornton was averaging only 3 points a night in the eight games prior to the Hampton game. In the past two games, he is averaging 15. Against Hampton he hit a season-high five three-pointers, and knocked down two more against FAU.

Last season, Thornton was second in the nation in three-point shooting percentage with 49.5 percent. This year he is shooting only 33.3 percent from behind the arc.

Prior to the game against Hampton, Speraw noticed an improvement in Thornton's shooting.

"In the shooting drills he's been shooting well, but in practice he hadn't been, but he did (Tuesday)," said Speraw. "I told everybody that Jason was going to shoot well tonight and he did and that's a big help. When he can step out there and knock down some jumpers it stretches

the defense a little bit and that's a big help."

News and Notes

UCF is currently fourth in the Trans America Athletic Conference in block shots with 3.73 and in steals with 7.64...The Golden Knights rank fifth in assists per game with 13.68, fifth in

turnover margin at -0.14 and fifth in assist to turnover ratio with 0.87...Paul Reed is second in the TAAC in blocked shots with 2.05 a game...Reed is sixth in rebounding with 7.1 and sixth in field goal percentage with 50.7 percent...Reed is 12th in the conference in scoring, averaging 14.2 points a game...Mario Lovett is

fourth in the TAAC in field goal percentage at 52.3 percent...Lovett is eighth in steals with 1.37 and ninth in rebounding with 6.4...Al Miller is second in the conference in assists per game with 4.82...Freshman Joey Graham is seventh in the conference in free throw percentage with 81.8 percent.

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THE central florida FUTURE

sports



Florida International wins inaugural game at Jay Bergman Field: FIU 6, UCF 2

Rain on Bergman's parade

JOE MANZO
STAFF WRITER

The 17th-ranked UCF baseball team lost the inaugural game at Jay Bergman Field on Saturday 6-2 to Florida International University, but on this day, even Bergman was not too distraught about the loss.

"We lost the first game last year," said Bergman. "We've got a lot of games left. Nobody likes to lose, but at the same time, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. This is a good baseball team and it's going to be a good baseball team."

On what turned out to be a cold and rainy afternoon, FIU starting pitcher William Collazo gave up three hits and one earned run over eight innings, allowing more than three batters in an inning only

three times to lead the Golden Panthers to a victory.

"He shut us down offensively and you give him credit," said Bergman. "We just didn't hit the ball very well and that might simply be because (Collazo) out-pitched us."

FIU took a quick lead in the top of the first inning, getting a two-run double from right fielder Miguel Quintana off UCF starter Justin Pope. The Golden Knights responded with two runs in the bottom half of the inning, however, as shortstop Jeremy Kurella and third baseman Chad Ehrnsberger each drove in a run.

Pope settled down and ended up striking out nine batters over 5 1/3 innings, allowing only an unearned run after

UCF opening day starting pitcher Justin Pope offers up the first pitch ever thrown in a game at Jay Bergman Field.



PHOTO BY
JASON
KOKOTOFF

UCF, Page A-13

UCF drops Kent from schedule, will play Arkansas instead

DAVID MARSTERS
STAFF WRITER

Arkansas' loss will be UCF's gain, as the two teams have turned to one another to fill recently created holes in their respective 2001 football schedules.

Arkansas was originally supposed to play Middle Tennessee State at home on Nov. 10, 2001, but MTSU pulled out of the contract, leaving Arkansas with a blank spot in the schedule that needed to be filled. Razorback officials placed a Jan. 26 call to UCF Athletics Director Steve Sloan, who jumped at the chance to accommodate the SEC opponent because of a similar scheduling problem for the Golden Knights.

Kent, UCF's scheduled home opponent on Nov. 10, had wanted to reschedule that game for the 2004 season, and the Arkansas opening allowed UCF to grant Kent's wishes. Now UCF will play at Arkansas on that date.

"They've been struggling a little bit with their wins and losses," said Sloan about Kent's situation. "I think they wanted to bring in a I-AA game and play up there instead of down here. It kind of worked out for both of us."

"Arkansas is a good name team for us, and it worked out that this is a really good time for this game. It's like a bowl game for us. If we're doing well and maybe win, that's the kind of game that might kick you into a real bowl."

UCF will make \$450,000 for the game against Arkansas, which makes it second-largest payday in school history. The amount pushes the Golden Knights' road-game earnings to \$1.25 million next season, just above the school's break-even budget point.

2001, Page A-14

Men's basketball returns home in search of answers

KRISTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men's basketball team comes home this week to avenge two early season

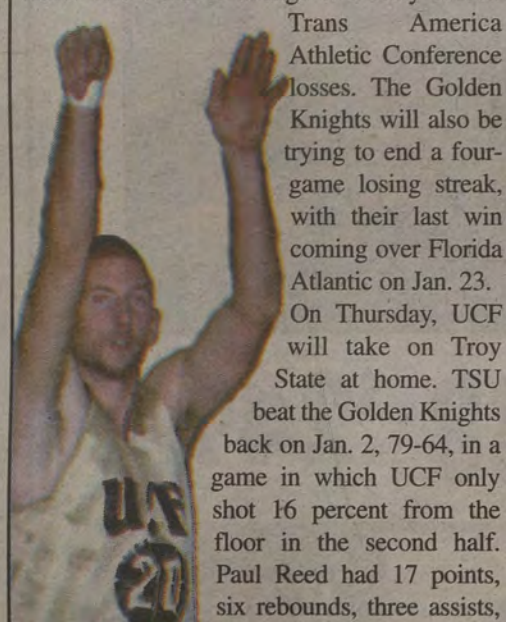


PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

Trans America Athletic Conference losses. The Golden Knights will also be trying to end a four-game losing streak, with their last win coming over Florida Atlantic on Jan. 23.

On Thursday, UCF will take on Troy State at home. TSU beat the Golden Knights back on Jan. 2, 79-64, in a game in which UCF only shot 16 percent from the floor in the second half. Paul Reed had 17 points, six rebounds, three assists,

and two blocks for the Golden Knights. Reed only played 20 minutes in the game due to foul trouble, fouling out of the game with 4:20 left to play.

Troy State went 1-2 last week, beating Jacksonville 76-60 on Thursday, but losing to Georgia State on Monday 79-75. TSU lost another close game on Saturday, falling 88-86 to Stetson on a buzzer-beater shot.

On Saturday, UCF will welcome Mercer to the UCF Arena in the hopes that the Golden Knights can exact some revenge for a last-second loss handed to them at Mercer earlier in the year. Corey McCray hit a running jumper with less than a second remaining to put Mercer ahead 69-67 in their first meeting. With 0.6 seconds on the clock, some fans charged the court and Mercer was assessed an indirect technical foul. Jason Thornton's technical free throw cut the lead to one, but UCF was unable to get a shot off in time and lost the game 69-68.

Three Golden Knights scored in double figures for the game. Mario Lovett had 18,

Reed had 14 and Thornton added 15.

Mercer is also coming off of a 1-2 week. The Bears' lone win came against Stetson on Thursday, beating the Hatters 81-72. Jacksonville beat Mercer last Monday, 72-69, and Saturday, 68-55.

The Golden Knights have lost nine of their last 12 games and are looking to end a four-game losing skid before going on the road to play Samford and Jacksonville State next week.

Head Coach Kirk Speraw is looking for anything that will provide a spark his struggling team.

"We've got to continue to battle every single day in practice," said Speraw. "We've got two more games at home against teams that are kind of in the middle of the league. Hopefully we can get some of this bad karma behind us and make something positive happen and move forward."

For more UCF Basketball read the Basketball Notebooks, pg. A-18

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The sound you can't hear right now is that of me screaming, rubbing my eyes with swabs of turpentine and a steel Brillo pad in punishment from watching *Valentine*. Oh, THE HORROR! The horror! My God in good heaven how in the hell did we come to receive another movie like this? Let's repeat the old maxim again, just in case we get lucky and somebody with the power to greenlight a film just happens to stumble across these words: Don't ever think that it would be a good idea

to assume that people who care about themselves would want to see more of this nonsense! STOP IT--D*MN IT--Stop it right now, you studio pirates! Speaking for everyone who enjoys going to the movies in this country, I have no problem stating on our collective behalf that we will form organized militias and over-

turn studios like Warner Brother's if they decide to make any more of these types of pictures. We will unite and then revolt Attica style. The shared understanding is there, but the message has yet to dawn in Southern California. We're mad as hell, and we don't want to pay to see these films anymore. The fun ran out a long time ago boys and girls, this genre is a rotting carcass that the buzzards won't touch. All we're doing is watching a dead horse being kicked over and over and over again.

Is there any room left in these slasher movies? Director Jaime Blanks doesn't seem to think so since he decides to rehash countless other cliches we have seen before in order to tell his story. The energy needed to make this film at least watchable is misinterpreted, converted into such an execution that we are given the equivalent of a cinematic bologna sandwich--boring, flat and tasteless, without not a solitary moment of even the slightest remedial thought. This drivel, *Valentine*, is a neon lit tapestry composed of the most moronic elements found in cinema in a long while. Saying that this movie is for the dumb would be disrespecting the dumb and all that they stand for.

But at least there has to be a central idea to the film, isn't there? No, forget it. It

provokes some sort of cheap stimulus to your instinct of fear? Cue those famous crickets. Will it provoke further discussion after it's over? Chirp, chirp. The plot? Ha! OK, how about a group of rich white people who start getting sharp objects inserted into their bodies one by one only to have the more prominent members of the cast come up with farcical revelation that some-

one wants them all dead. *Oh No! My best friend, Sally, was found with her entrails wrapped around her satellite*

dish, and my boyfriend just fell face first onto an axe! What does all of this mean, detective? Stop me if you've heard this before.

It is getting to the point where we see first hand

that Hollywood is having a pickle of a time coming up with a decent psychopathic killer. Not too long ago it seemed so easy, but now the entire genre is as bankrupt as Amazon.com. It took four writers to adapt Tom Savage's crafty little novel into a screenplay so lacking in the most basic artistic refinement and casual intelligence that it hurts to watch. Love may hurt, but so does bad dialogue (such as "Wax it, baby"). This time the fellow, who we'll call Jeremy Melton for now, hides under a cherub facemask looks like Michael Myers' malevolent redheaded stepson choosing to stalk/disembowel five lifelong friends in the suburbs of San Francisco...and on Valentine's Day, no less. He is of the small persuasion of nostalgic and sentimental serial killers. Funny thing, for taking place in "San Francisco" the audience actually never sees San

Francisco in the movie, I guess the producers decided not to hire a second unit crew in order to photograph some establishing shots of the city. No matter how hard they lie and try to work their way around it, Vancouver still looks like Vancouver.

In talking with the cast (Katherine Heigel, David Boreanaz, Denise Richards and Marley Shelton), it was made clear to me above all else that they wanted their characters, and this film, to stand apart from what would be considered "the norm" in this exhausted genre. And you know what--they all lied to me, too. Ooh the shame of it all. Most of the actors came across as having enough professional range to muck up a high school adaptation of *Our*

Town, and that is being considerate. Ms. Richards' performance has the flexibility of a telephone pole. In this instance I can, however, judge them on how well they stand on a mark and look pretty, because that's all they

do. If by chance they're busy screaming and carrying on down a hallway before getting ramrod-ded anally by an oversized reading lamp, they do it as if it was choreographed a

dozen times before. Nothing feels authentic in this picture, all flash, no fun. Nothing is obtained by the performances as a whole; we perceive that these are people just wanting to do something in order to get a paycheck. These are actors doing what bad actors need to do in

these types of situations--look good until something bad happens to you. This can't be considered a vehicle for Boreanaz either, simply due to his lacking screen time in comparisons next to the women. *Valentine* is the first movie to become an example in the argument promoting the use of CGI actors because these characters aren't even two dimensional, and they're actually played by real people.

Blood and Roses

KRISTOFER KAY
STAFF WRITER



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Denise Richards Hates Me

Unmasking the cast of *Valentine*

KRISTOFER KAY

STAFF WRITER

Time now to take a stab at what is already a ridiculously inept and ill-conceived analogy. If you have ever seen those fecal-like, gill breathing, suction mouthed urchins who cling to the underbelly of the more menacing sea-dwelling life (i.e. big, scary sharks) to help sustain their well being, you can get the gist of the relationship between entertainment journalists and celebrities. Put simply, we have to feed off of each other in order to survive. The sharks swim freely doing as they please while the helper clings tightly enjoying the ride, waiting patiently for their turn to help their carriers.

Talking to celebrities isn't a science. In fact, it isn't something you necessarily have to be good at; as long as you have a mouth with which to ask informative, if not trivial, questions and a pair of ears to process the responses, you have gotten the fundamentals already down. The concept is a little strange though. As much as the interviewer wants to come across as just another bloke having a conversation with his or her buddy, both participants during the entire talk ascertain a facade. Why? Because it is all business. True, it is about show business, a topic that in our force-fed infotainment society is treated as diligent news; allowing that the public will receive the fix they have come to expect thanks to the studio marketing departments, web-based magazines and guys like me. But from the interviews I have been

fortunate to be a part of, I have found out that they are not a way to humanize movie stars but rather to accomplish a necessity in order to sell a product. Interviews are personalized commercials for whatever needs to be sold, or pitched, or accepted by the masses. For performers it is part of the job, the work to be done after the final take is completed. For the rest of us it's not so much handy-dandy knowledge than it is just buying into the hype before we see the completed picture. There is no such thing as simply going to the movies out on a whim. So without sounding too disconcerted with the whole process I, of course, jumped at the chance to interview the main participants of the new film, *Valentine*. I may be jaded, but I'm not stupid.

Another cardinal rule of the interview--behind listening, I guess--is the use of the tape recorder. Whoops. Failed that one deliberately since shorthand does work and there were eleven other reporters on the line with me, as well as the

actors, during the time of the Q and A. Basically, we were like a novice Mexican firing squad to these people whom Warner Brothers had allotted twenty minutes of their time for our questions. No time to shoot the sh*t, just sell, sell, sell. Going against the grain as much as I can, I figured why do what has come to be expected with one of these things. I ask a rhetorical question, someone answers appositely, we print it and you read it. No. That is what the E! Channel and *Movieline* magazine are for. I would rather tell about my experience talking with these people. Whether this will help or hinder my future career as a film journalist is still in question. But then again, being two-faced is something to be expected in this business.



Katherine Heigl was the first "star" to sit down and speak



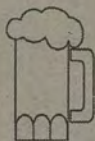
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with the likes of twelve college kids, mostly male, sounding a tad too ruffled and gloriously undersexed. Brave girl. She must have gone through these a number of times or possess an incredible amount of composure to

come across this professional and charming. While she was being asked about her new film, she was honest enough to reveal that she was in it mostly for the money, and she didn't read the book before hand. She trusted her director (Jaime Blanks) to control her scenes and doesn't mind saying that there is no "method" to how she was taught her craft. Throw in a great story about how Steven Segal lives up to being just an overweight, Buddha-ranting, earth-hugging karate hippie and I almost forgot that there was a movie about to be released called Valentine. As for her *Maxim* cover, she appreciated that I have it on my desktop.

Because of this quote by **David Boreanaz** I will now be a devoted watcher to *Angel*, "Hollywood is a misfit town; it is like a beautiful blond with dirty underwear." Probably the biggest surprise in talking with Boreanaz is his vibe of stealthy assurance while not coming across as the least bit vain. By some odd Tinseltown osmosis, he

has obtained this "Montgomery Clift by way of George Clooney" thing going for him, and if used in the right vehicle it could help him be the movie star he deserves to be. Supposedly women weep wherever he goes, I didn't



inquire about his papal-like tendencies, but even in the way he carries himself over the phone there's the sense that it's at least plausible. He's got two other movies on the way, he won't discount being the new Batman and he would like to one day make his own wine.

Now I don't want to say that **Denise Richards** is dumb, that would be rude.

But she is about as dense as a two hundred-gallon salt-water fish tank. Maybe she didn't understand the format, or the questions we were asking, or simple English for that matter, but the woman was "difficult" to say the least. To give you an idea of just what went wrong, we all collectively "stretched the truth" to her when she asked if we had already viewed the film for which she was wasting her day promoting. Just a little food for thought if anyone else is in this type of predicament--Never lie to over-publicized, overachieving, under-talented starlets! I guess this means I won't

be asked to interview her once that epic she completes with Eddie Griffin is due to be released. I didn't even get to ask what she would like God to say to her once she arrives at the Pearly Gates. James Lipton would never stand for this.

Marley Shelton started her career working with two of today's best directors--Gary Roos and Oliver Stone. How she went from those high standards to teen horror schlock is something that I'm still pondering. After shooting my entire load of questions about Valentine with the actors before Shelton sat down to chat, I was spent on how else I could help dispel meaningful facts about the film. So we decided the next best thing was to talk about something other than Hollywood. If you have



ever seen a picture of this woman or seen her in any movies, it may be hard to believe that she could be as radiant over the phone as she is in her physical appearance. We talked about her love of Roman Polanski movies, her upcoming fall marriage, her attendance at UCLA and the impact of Hitchcock on the world of cinema. She had an ability to make the interviewers feel comfortable with talking to

her, and was a pleasure to converse with.

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Chuck Shepherd's NEWS OF THE WEIRD

LEAD STORIES

Former pro football player Rae Carruth's elaborate defense to the charge of ordering his pregnant girlfriend's murder (semi-successful, in that he was convicted in January only of conspiracy) was financed by the state of North Carolina because the well-paid Carruth convinced Judge Charles Lamm that he was "indigent," according to court documents that Lamm had kept sealed for six months but which were discovered in January by the Charlotte Observer. Carruth earned about \$38,000 a week during the 1999 season, and when the prosecutor suggested the motive for the killing was to spare Carruth child-support payments, Carruth countered by pointing out that he made enough money (net worth: \$360,000) to easily support a child.

In January, Nicholas Griffin, owner of video stores in York and Grimsby, England, was fined about \$9,900 by a magistrates' court under the Trade Descriptions Act for marketing ordinary feature films (such as the 1973 Jack Palance comedy "Secrets of a Sensuous Nurse") as "hard-core" sex videos. Said Griffin, "I am amazed people have the audacity to complain about things like that."

Latest British Research

British Antarctic Survey personnel (and helicopters) are now in the Falkland Islands specifically to learn whether penguins do, indeed, topple over when following the path of an aircraft overhead. Also, a team of researchers from the at-Bristol center, using "arousal monitors," found that 20 of the 25 surveyed members of Parliament appear more emotionally aroused by the sight of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher than by the sight of local glamour personality Denise Van Outen in a skimpy dress. And, commenting on a Bremen University (Germany) study on gambling as an addiction, British psychologist Mark Griffiths and British gardening expert Alan Titchmarsh said in November that the findings should apply, as well, to the addictive activity of gardening; said Titchmarsh, "Once you've discovered the thrill of making things grow, you can't stop."

I Don't Think So

Former police officer Edward Ludaescher and a partner were charged in November after allegedly attempting to rob an Oxnard, Calif., bank, but Ludaescher said it was all a misunderstanding, that he really was only studying up on the mind of the bank robber for a police training video he and the partner were planning to make. (However, prosecutors said that the two men badly needed money, having recently defaulted on a \$200,000 loan for developing a pepper spray gun.)

John Bradley Park's defense at his drunk-driving trial in Llano, Texas, in October was that he was perfectly sober while driving on the night of July 4, 1999, even though his car might have been swerving on the road, but that while sitting in the driver's seat after police officer Jody Deatherage pulled him over, he quickly began drinking, and that by the time he reached the medical facility to test his blood-alcohol content, he was drunk. (He was nevertheless convicted.)

Twenty-six years after Mel Lastman (who is now mayor of Toronto) paid off a former long-time, married girlfriend, with whom he had had two sons, in a private settlement, the sons (now age 41 and 38) filed a lawsuit against Lastman, complaining of low self-esteem, anxiety, humiliation and delay in their personal development, for which they want Lastman to pay them \$4 million (U.S.) more. Nevertheless, said the 19-year-old son of one of the plaintiffs, the lawsuit is "not about the money."

According to his campaign manager Jose A. Riesco, U.S. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida did not retain illegal campaign contributions in the bank for eight months rather than issue immediate refunds as legally required and as he promised to do. Rather, Riesco told the Miami Business Review in December, all 45 refund checks (totaling nearly \$30,000) were mailed out on time in February 2000.

The reason none of the 45 recipients ever cashed their checks over the next eight months, said Riesco, was that somehow every single one of the 45 checks was lost in the mail, "poorly addressed, things like that," thus allowing Diaz-Balart full use of the illegal money for the recent campaign. Riesco denied any wrongdoing.

Not My Fault

In Edwardsville, Ill., in November, Kwayera "Q" Jackson, 18, was sentenced to 40 years in prison in the death of his 5-month-old son, whom authorities determined was killed by a blow to his intestines. Jackson (a recent high school football standout) said he might have gently thumped the boy's stomach, but only because he was trying to build up his abs so that he would be a better athlete when he grew up.

In November, a jury in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., awarded Harvard undergraduate student Patricia Ryan, 36, \$363,000 from the Cabaret nightclub for a 1994 injury in her previous occupation as a stripper. In her act, Ryan was a fire-breather, but after accidentally dribbling out some of the 151-proof stage booze, her chest caught fire, causing second-degree burns. The Cabaret's attorney said, "We didn't cause the fire," but Ryan argued that the club's employees declined to help her during the emergency.

People Different From Us

In January, Gainesville (Fla.) police charged James Anthony Harmon, 39, with fraud after finding his house cluttered from floor to ceiling with as much as \$200,000 worth of unopened cartons of merchandise ordered under various credit-card names from Home Shopping Network. It appeared that very few HSN-ordered items were actually in use in the home. Said Harmon, "I just shop a lot." According to the Gainesville Sun, Harmon's neighbors said he is "a loner who often kept to himself."

Recurring Themes

Accidentally shooting yourself in the head with a nail gun is rarely fatal, as readers of News of the Weird know from several stories in which construction workers have inadvertently plugged themselves and earned little more than a terrific souvenir X-ray. In January 2001, a 25-year-old construction worker in Bethlehem, Pa., apparently tried to kill himself with a nail gun because of the intense pain from having just accidentally severed his hand in a mitre saw mishap. At press time, he was hospitalized in stable condition after surgery to reattach the hand (and to remove the 12 nails in his skull).

Least Competent Criminals

In November, Mr. Auburn Mason, 62, was sentenced to four years in prison in England for a 1999 British Airways hijacking. He had grabbed a flight attendant, held scissors to her neck, and threatened additionally to blow up the plane, yelling, "Take me to Gatwick (airport, London)!" At that point, the flight was 15 minutes away from its scheduled destination, which was Gatwick airport. Mason was disarmed after observers realized the "bomb" was a pocket dictating machine.

Also, in the Last Month ...

A 33-year-old mother was charged with felonious failure to prevent child sex abuse, by giving her 13-year-old son condoms to facilitate sex with his 15-year-old girlfriend (the "abuser") (Milwaukee). Vietnam vet Harry Hunt got his waist-length hair cut, ending his eight-year boycott of the clippers in protest of draft-dodging Bill Clinton's presidency (Mexico, Mo.). A 34-year-old man was charged with forcing a woman to have sex by wielding a live hand grenade (York, Maine). A circus-performing archer missed the apple on his wife/assistant's head for the first time in 14 years, sending her to the hospital with a catastrophic wound below the eye (Paris).

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A Sticky Night at the House of Blues

KIM LINDQUIST
STAFF WRITER

Jan. 31st was a very interesting night at the House of Blues. Three local bands hit the stage in what has been known as Orlando Rocks!, a once-a-week show spotlighting local talent. The first noticeable difference from the concerts that showcase more widely known bands is the diverse crowd. There were older people there, a disappointing sign for people our age because old = someplace we don't want to be. However, there were also hoards of little kids running around the standing room floor, some even looking under the curtain. This was the first indicator that this night would be different from a "normal" concert night at the club.

That inclination was totally right. First to perform that night was a band named Cleanser. Surprisingly, despite all aforementioned signs that this concert was going in the direction for the worst, they were good. Most go to Orlando Rocks! expecting

stood BongWater Taffy, a ragtag band of celebrity look-a-likes. We had the white Lajon Witherspoon of Sevendust in a raincoat, swinging his three-foot dreadlocks around and acting like LL Cool J with his yelling the phrase "Make some noise!" repeatedly. We had Kid Rock on the lead guitar. We had a 7-foot version of Greg Brady playing base and what looked like his father on drums. Finally, we had the funniest member: a blonde woman standing behind all the other members dancing at a microphone. She wasn't singing anything half the time; just dancing. Once everyone got past the bizarre image, there wasn't even good music. The only good song was a tune called "Monsters Incorporated," a song that is used as a theme for the Monsters of the Midday. The band has been hailed as a "funkier version of the Chili Peppers" by disc jockeys such as Surfer Dave and was even complimented by Howard Stern,

but the crowd wasn't seeing it as they dodged the taffy thrown out by the lead singer.

The final band of the night was Ciara, a band



Cleanser

amateur talent, but these guys were talented and totally original. In fact, most of the older crowd in the audience was wearing Cleanser shirts, suggesting that this band is not a total newcomer to the biz. Cleanser includes the traditional line-up: a vocalist, a guitarist, a bassist and a drummer. However, it also includes a violinist, which is pretty rare amongst the local scene. Their style is truly unique, sounding like Collective Soul with the addition of the violin for the songs' melodies. The band itself cites Pearl Jam, Radiohead and Counting Crows as some of their musical influences. Now you wouldn't think a violin would fit in that well with a modern alternative band such as those, but it did perfectly. It was blended so smoothly with the music that no one thought "violin"; they thought "melody." Some of the songs played that night included "Summer of Long Island," "American Night" and "Insatiable," which included a strong melodic part written especially for the violin. The lyrics were the kind that made people go "Aw"... you know, the sappy kind of stuff people should say but don't.

After Cleanser's performance, the audience was starting to get into the night. They eagerly waited for the curtain to rise and the second band to play. When it finally did, most probably wanted it to go back down. Behind it

that looked, acted and sounded exactly like No Doubt. They had talent, they had style, they had...well, everything that No Doubt has. Hailing from Daytona Beach, Ciara was formed in 1998 and has put out two albums: *Facade* in 1998 and *Worry About Yourself* in 1999. Moira, the female lead-vocalist of the band, can belt out some pretty amazing stuff. From the lyrical and sweet melodies to the aggressive angry-girl voice, she had it down pat for the performance. Besides her, the band includes Thomas Player on rhythm guitar, Kenny Cox on the lead guitar, Sean McWilliams on bass and Bobby Zucko on drums. After the crowd was done recov-



Ciara

ering from BongWater Taffy's performance, they seemed to be into the music and enjoy the show. Ciara wrapped up the night nicely, closing another edition of Orlando Rocks!

***For more information about
Cleanser and Ciara,
visit the following sites:
www.cleanser.org and
www.ciara.cc**

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CELEBRITY GOSSIP

By George Rush and Joanna Molloy, Tribune Media Service's



STALKING THE LINE

Is Jennifer Love Hewitt living in fear? A law enforcement source reports that the actress has a stalker. Spies on the New York set of "The Devil and Daniel Webster" say the threat is serious enough for Hewitt to have a bodyguard. Hewitt's spokeswoman assures us: "She doesn't have that kind of issue." Let's hope not.

Frank Zappa's daughter Moon just went to L.A. Superior Court to apply for a temporary restraining order against a man who allegedly threatened to kill her. Mark

Brownfield, who claims the then-14-year-old Moon and her father stole the lyrics of the 1982 hit "Valley Girl" from him, pleaded not guilty last month to making death threats

against Zappa. Nevertheless, a judge ordered him confined to a psychiatric ward based on a threatening letter.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

Prince William is learning that it's good to have friends in high places. The principal of the college he'll be attending in the fall, Dr. Brian Lang, has warned students that they'll face expulsion if they leak stories about their new classmate.

The prince is due to start a four-year course of study in art history next October at St. Andrew's University in Scotland.

Lang is also doing his part to protect the prince physically. According to London's Telegraph, he's giving up his official residence, a mansion near the fabled St. Andrews golf course, so that the art-history department can be consolidated under one roof, presenting fewer photo opportunities for the paparazzi.

London's Daily Express reports that a recent security sweep of the town of St. Andrews uncovered a number of sophisticated bugging devices that would have allowed snoopers to monitor Will's phone calls and online activity.



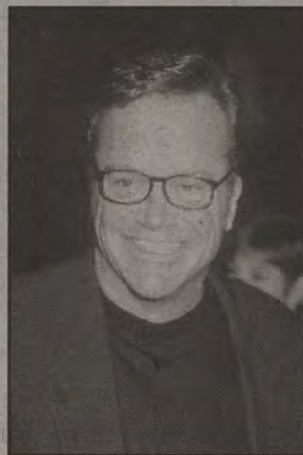
carpet when Lucy Liu started chatting him up.

"But she's very soft-spoken, so I had to lean in real close to hear what she was saying," Priest told us. "It was, 'You're standing on my dress!'"

SURVEILLANCE

Tom Arnold is not fooling around about sobriety. When the comedian was offered a canned soft drink at Maxim's Super Bowl party Saturday night, sources say he mistook the drink for a beer and went ballistic. "He

started freaking out and yelling 'No way! I can't drink that! I'm an alcoholic!'" our source says. Magic Johnson, Patty LaBelle, LeAnn Rimes, Nelly, Kirstie Alley, 'N Sync, 98 Degrees, Jay-Z, Brian McKnight, Marcus Allen, Wyclef Jean and Run-DMC were also on hand for the charity event that raised money for the HollyRod Parkinson's



Disease Foundation.

Rudy Giuliani bonded with Wade Boggs at a Super Bowl party in Tampa. Also there at the party that CBS threw at MacDill Air Force Base was MTV's Carson Daly, who didn't think it improper to ask a C-17 pilot if he could have his flight suit. The pilot obliged him.

ITEMIZING

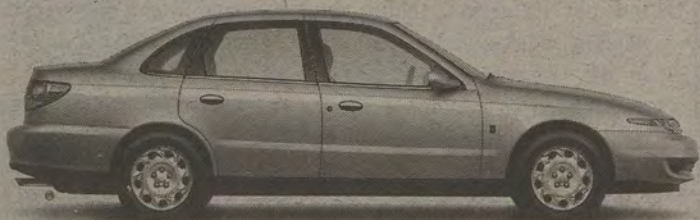
John Priest got off on the wrong foot at the Golden Globes last week. The comic, known for routines like what happens when you're behind Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow in a power yoga class, thought he'd gotten lucky on the red

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The Odd Couple: Humbert and Precious play Back Booth

LISA CERICOLA
STAFF WRITER

I was nearly knocked off my barstool when Humbert launched into their set Saturday night at Back Booth. Yeah, I was only sitting two feet away from the stage, but there's no denying the Miami-based power pop band has a huge sound.

Power pop bands are often compared to Weezer, but in Humbert's case, the comparison is actually true. They lean towards classic song-writing full of catchy hooks, wailing guitar solos and infectious melodies. Lead singer Derek Cintron teases the audience with his delicate vocals and softly strummed guitar before the band really comes in, slamming the audience in the gut with their powerful, dense choruses.

Did I mention the band uses three electric guitars? It's amazing to watch Cintron along with guitarists Ferny Coipel and Rimsky Pons tear into each song, their hands a blur across the strings. Tony Landa does an amazing job backing them up on bass, and Izo Besares is a tremendous drummer.

It's always fun to watch musicians who are genuinely in tune with each other. Humbert sounds as polished live as on their self-titled album, and yet they really seem to be having a good time together, trading solos and harmonizing beautiful vocals.

"Sarah," one of my favorite songs off of the album, sounded just lovely, as well as "Everything's OK," a deceptively mellow song that slowly builds into a roaring anthem of a chorus. "My Baby" is pop bliss-full of soaring Weezer-esque harmonies. Lyrically, Humbert isn't very sophisticated, but who cares? The feeling behind their melodies is more important than their actual words.

Humbert wasn't the main act for the evening, local band Precious took the stage soon after. If you haven't at least heard of Precious, you probably haven't been following the local music scene too closely. Love them or hate them, the three-piece band has gained quite a local following. The band has performed at the Orlando Music Awards, and their single "Bi-Curious George" has gotten airplay on college and local radio stations. Despite their popularity, the band still favors being mischievous over becoming mainstream.

Precious has a unique sound full of dis-

nitely an odd hybrid.

Although the band is quite talented, Garron has a lot to do with the band's reputation. His strange stage presence is a huge part of what Precious is. Garron has an attitude. At one point in the show, he ripped on Humbert, telling the crowd that "they too can write their own Humbert songs."



It's all in-good fun, I guess; some bands thank the opening act for showing up, others trash them. Garron routinely cracks on other bands, sometimes

really takes away from their performance.

And then there's the actual stage presence: Garron shot his arms and legs out randomly during the set, like a bizarre man-boy-robot and drawled his already-loose vocals through several songs.

There are two other musicians in this band besides Garron. Bassist Joe Pantan and drummer Matt Bloodwell are both really talented musicians, they back up Garron's vocals and guitar work with rocking, heavy layers of sound.

"The Mighty Rock Hudson," is an excellent song-an impressive combination of Garron's pretty vocals paired with crunching guitar work and powerful drums. "Work," one of the band's newer songs, was the highlight of the evening. Pantan's bass sounded great against Garron's guitar work and vocals.

Precious' self-titled album is proof that they are one of the most interesting bands you'll hear in Orlando. And if you can get past Garron's arrogant front, you might enjoy them live as well.

On the Web: <http://www.humbert.net> and <http://www.preciouspages.com>



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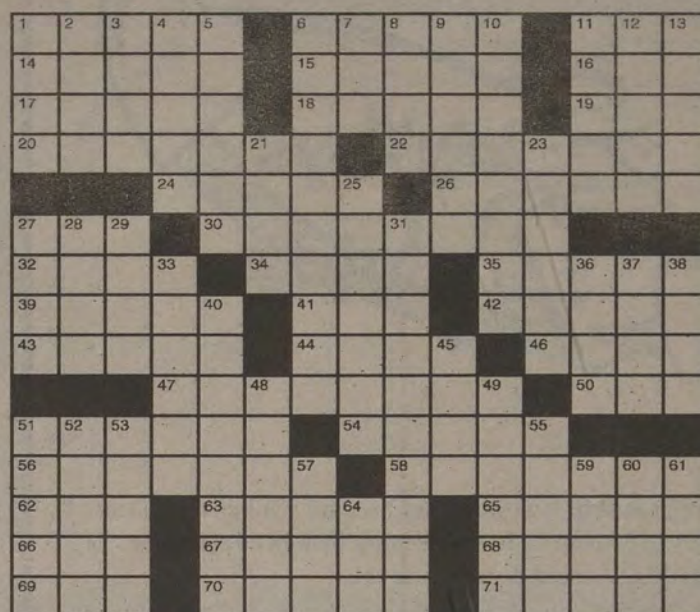
Crossword

ACROSS

- Work stretch
- Act part
- E-mail symbol
- Bet
- John H. or Peggy
- Nature grp.
- Nitrogen, once
- In the midst of
- Diarist Anais
- Cherrystones
- Doing perfectly
- Catch of the day
- Dwarflike creatures
- Jamie ___ Curtis
- Award recipients
- OK Corral participant
- Magnitude
- City on the Ruhr
- Seed covers
- Profit figure
- Like nostalgic fashions
- Fabric fold
- Do beaver work
- Symbol
- Bridge supports
- Lobster eggs
- Fries lightly
- Clues
- Side by side
- Reduce to a fine spray
- Hold up
- Deserve
- Velocity detector
- Oklahoma town
- Harden
- Ms. Verdugo
- Coop denizen
- Exudes a strong odor
- Dispatches, biblical style

DOWN

- Exchange
- Indistinct
- Stravinsky or Sikorsky
- Gala celebrations
- Sapper's creation
- Salt and pepper, e.g.
- Variable motion producer
- Collar choice
- Period of immaturity
- Stage-manage
- Jeans fabric
- Express a viewpoint
- Sharp tastes
- Son of Aphrodite
- Setbacks
- Last of twelve
- ___ of faith
- Viscount's superior
- Cleveland's lake
- Gets even
- Nebraska river
- Mix
- Cogito ___ sum
- Zilch
- Decorative strip
- They ___ thataway!



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49 Puts away for a
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51 Abraham's wife

52 Residence

53 Of a city

55 Diminutive

57 Test option

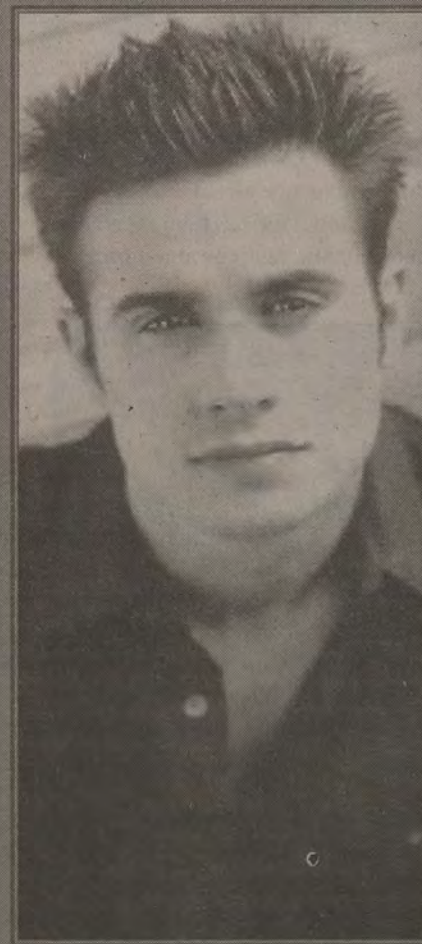
59 Conception

60 Daft

61 Important times

64 Exasperate

HOTTIE OF THE WEEK



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Dear Sexpert,

My relationship is in shambles because I got caught cheating by my girlfriend as I was sleeping with her roommate. Is there anything I could do to repair this?

-In the doghouse, 20

Well, other than groveling like you have never groveled before-I think you're pretty screwed. The thing you should have done though to keep out of the doghouse is not cheating on her in the first place. You should have used the northern head on this one before you jumped into bed with her ROOMMATE! How could you have thought you wouldn't have been caught? They live in the same house! But, now that it's happened, the only thing to do is to talk to her about it and hope she'll forgive you. If not then you're out of luck. You're in the wrong on this one so she gets to decide-not you. If she does give you another chance, consider yourself lucky and be a good boyfriend to her. Prove the "once a cheater always a cheater" mantra wrong if you really want to be in this relationship with her. I wish you the best of luck and hope you two can work it out.

Dear Sexpert,

I'm a homosexual male, but my best friend is straight. I really like him and I want to tell him how I feel. Do you think this is wise of me to do?

- More than just friends, 18

Well, this can be a very tricky topic to deal with. Ask yourself two questions when thinking about what to do. First, is your friend a very open-minded person? If not, then telling him how you feel could not only create a verbal argument, but it also could cause harm to you if he takes it the wrong way (i.e. the whole Jenny Jones murder incident). Secondly, do you think telling him how you feel will be worth the risk of losing a friend? If he is straight then converting him is probably unlikely to happen when you tell him how you feel, but it is likely that you'll damage your friendship. If you feel that you absolutely can't go on being just friends with him because of your intense feelings, then tell him about your crush and just be prepared for the worst. There is still the chance that he could like you that way too, and just be afraid to come out, but I think you should give this matter some serious thought before confronting your friend with your romantic feelings about him.

Send your
questions about
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relationships
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@aol.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "BIG DADDY"

They swore
nothing could
come between them.

Then she
came along.

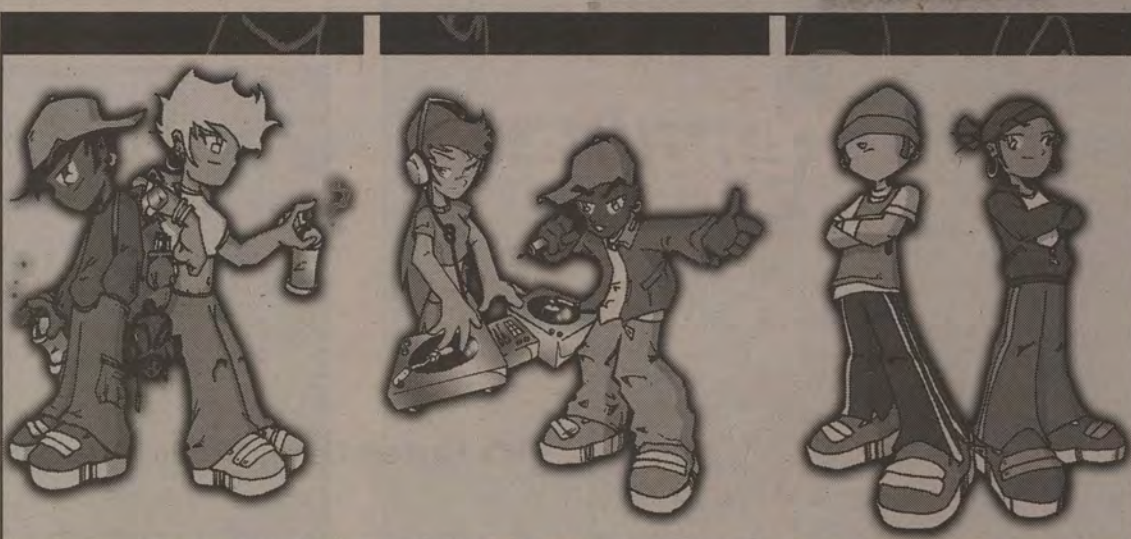


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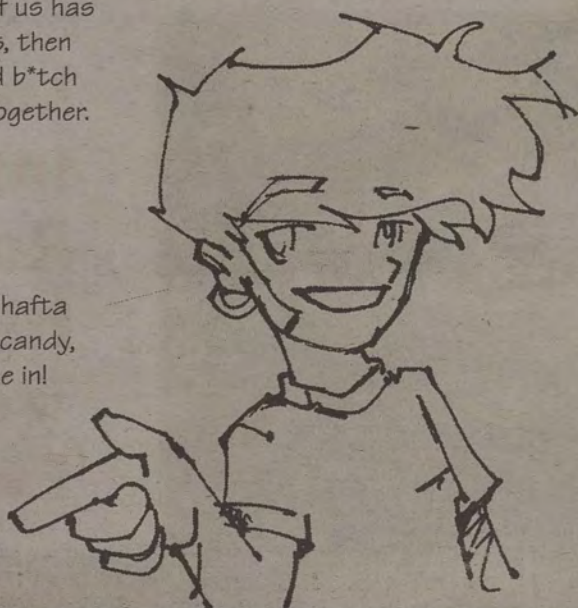
So... Got any plans for Valentine's Day?

Uh...



I say that if neither of us has a date on Valentine's, then we can hang out and b*tch about our love lives together.

As long as I don't hafta buy you roses and candy, you can count me in!



Felix

by
Steve
McCain
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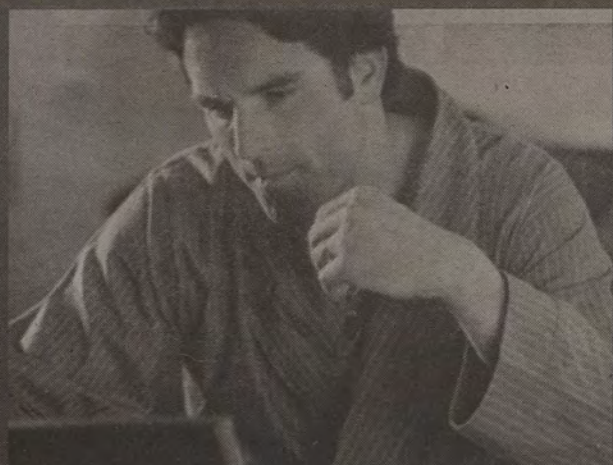
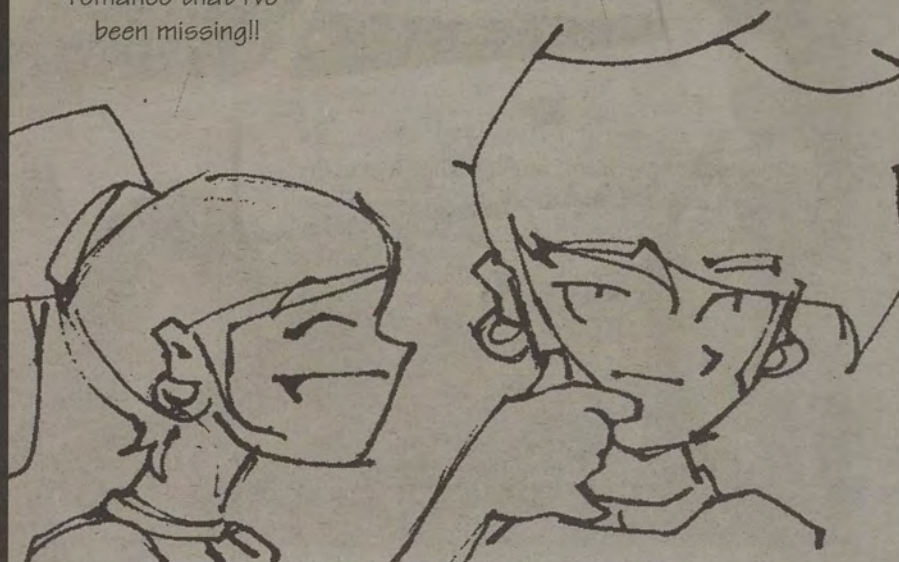
Relax, Casanova, I'm not asking you out or anything. It's just that I haven't been having much luck in the romance department as of late... and it would be nice to know that if things don't pan out on Valentine's Day, I have someone that I can at least hang out with..

So what are you getting at here?



Now there's the romance that I've been missing!!

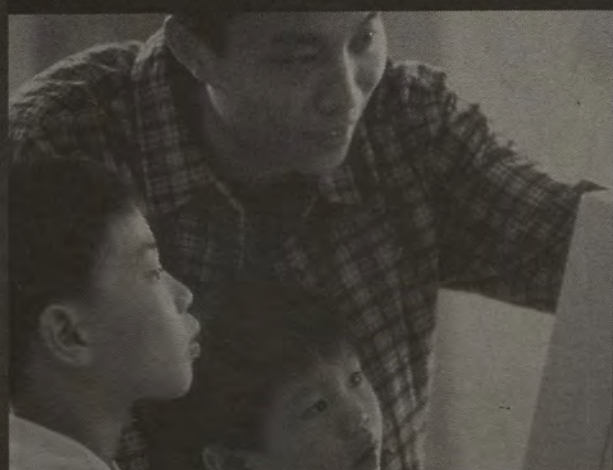
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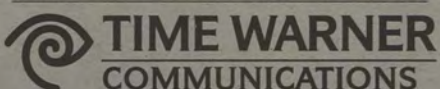
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